



Jordan Times

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Well-fed Somali gunmen oppose U.N. force

BARDERA, Somalia (R) — Feasting on steak and spaghetti, Somali gunmen said on Friday they were adamantly opposed to a U.N. plan to deploy a blue beret force to bring food for millions of starving Somalis. "We cannot allow armed foreigners, bringing in foreign troops, to be an infringement of the sovereignty of the people of Somalia," said Mohammed Alihan Noor, a senior aide to Mogadishu warlord General Mohammed Farah Aidid. "All we need is more food to give our forces so they can then take care of security. The U.N. has only one option — flood the country with food," he added, to needs of agreement from fellow fighters. A team of U.N. troubleshooters arrived in Mogadishu on Thursday to assess security measures for a huge relief effort in a country torn apart by clan feuding and divided into fiefdoms ruled by rival warlords. Dane Peter Hansen and his 23-member team are meeting Interior Minister Ali Mahdi Mohamed and Gen. Aidid, and at least four other clan leaders to try to win them over to last week's Security Council resolution to send in up to 6,000 U.N. soldiers to protect relief operations.

Negotiators agree on chemical-weapons

GENEVA (AP) — Negotiators at a 39-nation conference agreed Friday on the final draft of a treaty to ban chemical weapons after 24 years of talks. "This is the end of the substantive talks," said a senior U.S. negotiator at the conference on disarmament. "Now it's a question of procedure." The negotiator, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the first step would be to see which countries immediately approve the compromise text, which totals more than 180 pages. Still more countries will be able to announce their acceptance when the committee on chemical weapons meets again on Aug. 26 to start the process of reporting the treaty to the U.N. General Assembly. Editing and translating work must continue, but the substance of the accord will be unchanged. Other countries will have an opportunity to sign the treaty at a ceremony in Paris late this year or early next year, and then the conference organizers will persuade reluctant nations to go along. The accord will go into effect when signed by the least 65 nations. It would eliminate chemical weapons over 10 years and would provide for inspections.

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Saddam to make speech today

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will address his people Saturday, the official Iraqi News Agency reported. Baghdad Radio said President Saddam, "hero of victory and peace, may God protect him, will address an important pan-Arab speech to the glorious Iraqi people." INA carried a similar report.

9 killed in Kurdish rebel clash in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Seven rebels from the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and two Turkish soldiers have been killed in a clash in southeast Turkey, official said on Friday. The rebels opened fire on troops from a house in Oynuk village in Diyarbakir province on Thursday night. PKK gunmen also attacked the house of the mosque prayer leader in the village of Belitlis in the same province wounding his wife and two children, the Anatolia news agency said.

UAE: Arab League charter ineffective

ABU DHABI (R) — The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) criticized the Arab League charter as ineffective in preventing conflicts such as Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He urged Arab leaders to resort to arbitration through the league to avoid future conflict. "Experience has proved the Charter of the Arab League is unsatisfactory and useless because its decisions are not binding for the aggressor," Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayeh. "The Arabs will enjoy international respect and good reputation only when this charter becomes binding," he said in an interview with Abu Dhabi television late Thursday.

Hundreds reported dying in Djibouti

PARIS (R) — About 200,000 people, caught up in a rebellion while trying to survive in drought-hit regions of Djibouti, have been cut off from the outside world and are dying in hundreds, a group of politicians said on Thursday. The politicians alleged that the victims were cut off by a blockade by government troops in the tiny Red Sea republic and were dying for lack of food and medical care. The opposition group, the Djibouti United Opposition Front (FUOD), said 200,000 civilians in the north and southeast of the country had been cut off since the government rebelled against the government 10 months ago. It said they were starving and suffering an epidemic of typhoid. Drought had killed herds, depriving them of milk and meat. The monthly death toll had reached more than 100 and the situation was worsening by the day.

Denktash says talks going well

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Talks on the Cyprus problem which had widely been expected to end in disarray by the weekend will continue next week, Turkish Cypriot leader Rafi Denktaş said Thursday. "We are very optimistic. We are going on very well," he told reporters after meeting Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, adding that "We shall continue next week." Mr. Denktaş said the key issues of refugees and territory had been completed, but gave no details. "We have finished the refugee problem, I think satisfactorily for all concerned," Mr. Denktaş said.

Lightweight lasers — a new weapon?

LONDON (R) — The U.S. military is quietly developing new lightweight lasers which can blind soldiers on the battlefield, Britain's New Scientist magazine has reported. The hand-portable lasers weigh about 10 kilograms and could also be used to knock out optical sensor equipment such as gun sights and closed-circuit television systems used by tanks. The United States shipped two 160-kilogram Stinger anti-aircraft lasers to the Middle East during the Gulf war in 1991, but they were not used, a Pentagon spokesman was quoted as saying.

Rabin off to U.S. as settlers protest settlement curbs

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, keen to mend ties with Washington and spur Middle East peace progress, left Friday for his first summit with President George Bush since his Labour Party's election win in June. He hopes to win billions of dollars in U.S. loan guarantees in talks at Mr. Bush's Maine vacation home on Monday. Mr. Rabin's curbs on Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, easing a long-running dispute between Mr. Bush and hard-line former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, smoothed the way for the summit but sent Israel's right wing to the boiling point. Thousands of armed, flag-waving demonstrators brought traffic to a halt in central West Jerusalem late Thursday as they overflowed from a rally where hawkish opposition leaders called for the downfall of the Rabin government. "This is the most anti-national, anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish gov-

ernment we ever had since the founding of the state," said Ariel Sharon, a legislator of the right-wing Likud bloc and the architect of the settlement drive of the Shamir government. "Israel is waiting for (Bill) Clinton," shouted legislator Hanan Porath of the National Religious Party. Among Israel's right wing, the presidential candidate of the Democratic Party is seen as more sympathetic to Israel than Mr. Bush. Demonstrators waved Israeli flags and placards reading "Eretz Israel for the people of Israel." Others unfurled a large banner showing a cartoon in which Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is kicking Mr. Rabin from behind, and Mr. Rabin in turn is kicking the backside of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, while Mr. Bush waves \$10 billion in the air. Police officers at the site said they ordered the many settlers who arrived carrying automatic weapons to surrender their

ammunition until the end of the demonstration. Police later issued a statement saying they were angry that the demonstrators violated conditions for the police permit which only allowed 700 people in the small square. Traffic in downtown Jerusalem was tied up for two hours. Mr. Rabin, in an airport news conference, took an indirect swipe at the settlers when asked about U.N. efforts to locate and destroy Iraqi, mass-destruction weapon facilities. "This U.N. struggle with (Iraq), backed by the U.S., is of the highest importance to Israel's security, perhaps more than all sorts of things that capture the headlines and are a subject for demonstrations in Israel." Mr. Rabin is expected to give Mr. Bush details of a plan for limited self-rule for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories ahead of the next round of

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Tafilies plan march

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of residents of Tafilies in the south of the country are planning to march towards Amman Sunday to protest the indictment by the Lower House of Parliament of Mahmood Hawamdeh on charges of corruption, according to sources close to a public meeting held in Tafilies Friday. According to eyewitnesses, the meeting, attended by around 600 people, was held at the house of Mrs. Hawamdeh's brothers, Abdullah. The organizers of the march are also enlisting other towns in the south and Tafilies living in Amman and Zarqa. According to sources at the meeting, the marchers intend to drive in a convoy of cars to the Royal Palace to petition His Majesty King Hussein to pardon Mr. Hawamdeh. The residents of Tafilies held a rally on Wednesday protesting the indictment of Mr. Hawamdeh and the rejection of similar motions against former Prime Minister Zeid Risi and former Finance Minister Hanna Odeh. On Thursday demonstrators in the southern city of Karak shouted slogans condemning the Parliament's decisions, eyewitness said. "The demonstrators shouted slogans against Parliament and Risi," one eyewitness told to Jordan Times by telephone. According to lawyer Enele Rawashdeh, the demonstration started from Al Omari Mosque through the streets of Karak and ended at the governor's house. Mr. Rawashdeh said that the demonstration, called for by a number of leftist parties, was peaceful and police did not interfere. According to Karak Rawashdeh, the people in Karak "felt betrayed." He said that the people recall that Mr. Risi was brought down by the "1989 uprising" and that Parliament failed to indict him. Another eyewitness, who did not wish to be named, said that demonstrated shouted that Mr. Hawamdeh, who was the only ex-minister indicted in corruption charges so far, was a "scapegoat." The organizers of the demonstration, which included among others the Popular Unity Democratic Party, the Communist Party, the People's Democratic Party, and the Baath Socialist Party, demanded in a written statement that "we must have an answer of how Jordanian resources were plundered." "Why are we \$12 billion in debt? Why, so far, no administrative reforms achieved? Why is the poor get poorer and rich richer?" the statement asked. According to Mr. Rawashdeh, around 500 people took part in Thursday's demonstration.



Isam Mahmoud of Al Wihdat (left) and Khaled Shargawi of Al Ramtha in action Friday (Photo by Yousef Al Allan)

Al Faisali wins championship

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Faisali Friday won the 1992 First Division soccer championship by beating Al Arabi 3-0 at Al Hassan Sports City stadium in Irbid. In another match, Al Wihdat defeated Al Ramtha 3-0 at Al Hussein Youth City in Amman. Al Faisali needed to win by any score to win the title after they tied with Al Hussein and Al Ramtha in overall points in earlier rounds.

Their win on Friday regained the title they last won in 1990. Khaled Awad, Subhi Awad and Firas Khalilich scored for Al Faisali, who missed captain Milad Abbasi due to injury. In the other match Al Wihdat's Jamal Mahmoud, Jihad Abdul Munem and Yousef Amouri scored against Al Ramtha to bag the third place. Al Ramtha missed to settle for fourth. Al Wihdat missed.

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His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return home Friday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

King, Queen and Prince Talal return

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Friday after a several-day private visit to Europe. Also returning with them were their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali Ben Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ben Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Chief Cham-

berlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef and senior Royal Court officials. Prince Talal, the military security of the King, was undergoing medical treatment in the United States. Sources close to the Prince said he was doing fine and well.

Jordan denounces atrocities in Bosnia

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government expressed outrage on Friday over reports of torture and executions in strife-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina and demanded that "death camps" there be opened up for international inspection. Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber called in ambassadors of the five permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council, the European Community and ambassadors of Arab and Muslim countries accredited to Jordan to inform them of Jordan's position towards the situation in former Yugoslavia. He voiced Jordan's "strong condemnation of the massacres being carried out against innocent Muslims," and said that "such massacres remained us of the Nazi detention camps."

New U.N. inspection team arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A Russian-led team of U.N. weapons inspectors arrived Friday in Baghdad and prepared to inspect Iraqi facilities, a day after Iraq said it would bar the experts from government ministries. Team leader Nikita Smidovich, in statements before departing from Bahrain to the Iraqi capital, affirmed his right to inspect any place but kept locations of the planned searches to himself. "We have our orders and our rights are clear," Mr. Smidovich said in remarks to the Associated Press. "We can visit any place in Iraq." But he added, "we're not looking for confrontation." President George Bush meanwhile reiterated the United Nations has the right to inspect any place it deems under the terms of the ceasefire that ended the Gulf war. Mr. Bush, at news conference in Washington, said he would not

determine how much of Iraq's latest comments were bluster but vowed that Baghdad "is going to comply with the U.N. resolution." Iraqi newspapers meanwhile proclaimed that Iraq was stronger and more confident than ever. "Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Hussein, was able to confront and resist threats though they were very big," the ruling Baath Party's Al Thawra daily said in a commentary looking ahead to Saturday's fourth anniversary of end of the war with Iran. Al Thawra and other official newspapers focused on the eight-year war with Iran and on the struggle against the U.N. trade blockade imposed after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. "Despite the unjust embargo and all attempts against Iraq im-

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Opposition urges Lebanon poll boycott

BEIRUT (R) — Christian groups opposed to Lebanon's first general elections in 20 years called for a Syrian withdrawal called for a boycott of the vote set to start on Aug. 23. "Our position is firm and unchangeable. We call on all Lebanese to boycott the elections... as voters and candidates until the appropriate circumstances are available," said a statement by the opposition groups. Dr. Abu Jaber said the resolution should force the Syrian government to stop aiding racial gangs and to withdraw its regular forces from Bosnia Herzegovina. Dr. Abu Jaber called on the U.N. Security Council to shoulder its responsibility for the protection of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and ensuring their independence and sovereignty. The opposition enjoys strong

support in east and north Beirut and mountains to the northeast where the number of voters is estimated at about 700,000 according to government sources. The sources said Christians in those areas would most likely have the opposition call which strongly affect the polls. Diplomats said the dispute threatened to divide the country along sectarian lines and might spark new violence in Lebanon where 15 years of civil war ended in 1990. Political sources said the opposition's call posed a serious challenge to the government as hardline Christians might call for strikes and demonstrations to sabotage the polls. (Sohs rejects delay in polls, page 2) In Damascus, Iranian Vice-President Hassan Habihi has

urged Islamic parties to compete in Lebanon's elections and called for the vote to be held on schedule. Iranian officials said. They said that Mr. Habihi, who was joined by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in the Syrian capital on Thursday with leaders of Lebanese Islamic and leftist parties. "He (Mr. Habihi) stressed that Lebanese Islamic and nationalist parties should unify their ranks to go with strength to the elections which should be held on schedule," an Iranian official said. He said Mr. Habihi met separately at the Iranian embassy in Damascus with delegations from Hizbollah led by Hassan Nasrallah, the Progressive Socialist Party led by Walid Junblatt, and religious figures.

Brotherhood gaining ground in Fourth District in run-up to Aug. 18 by-elections

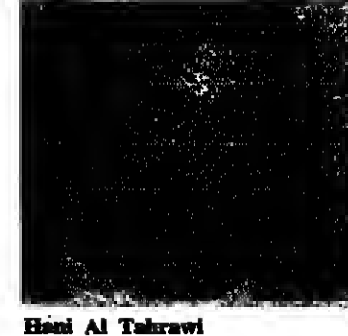
By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ABU ALANDA — As the August 18 by-elections in the fourth and six districts of Amman draw closer questions are being raised about the real strength of the Muslim Brotherhood organization in the industrial-tribal district of Qweisneh — the Fourth District where the Brotherhood candidate appears to be gaining steadily ground. Large black-and-white banners saying "Islam is the solution" and drawings of two swords and a picture of Dr. Hami Al Tahrawi, the Brotherhood candidate, adorn almost every street corner in this industrial heartland of Greater Amman. A few other banners and pictures in shop windows are

indications that Dr. Tahrawi is not alone in the running for the seat in the Lower House of Parliament. But the six other candidates, members of large families and tribes, appear to be running a distant second in the campaign thus far. Anwar Al Hadid, a relative of the popular late deputy Navef Al Hadid, is seen to have a good chance of challenging the Brotherhood candidate by winning widespread tribal support, but the numerical strength of candidates threatens to divide tribal and family votes, say observers here. The Hadid clan, say people in the Qweisneh area, is not as numerous as many people think. "Their fame comes from a close tribal network and land-ownership," said one observer.

In the November 1989 elections nine people ran for each of the two legislative seats in the district. The two winners were Navef Al Hadid, who got over 6,000 votes, and Hamez Mansour, the only Muslim Brotherhood candidate to run, secured 4,200. Some political observers in the Qweisneh district say that Mr. Hadid had vied for and received Brotherhood votes in the district, a claim disputed by aides close to the late deputy. "He allied himself with the Brotherhood and received some 3,500 to 4,000 votes from them, the rest of the votes he received were tribal," said a veteran political observer in the district. Four members of the Hadid Clan ran in the 1989 race and some observers were surprised that one of the Hadids won

enough votes to enter the legislature despite the split in tribal voting. "It was a surprise at the time because the Hadid votes had been split into four. Whenever such splits occurred in other areas in Jordan no-one from the clan in question usually made it to the Lower House," said a political observer in Amman. The late Hadid's aide outrightly deny the support of the Brotherhood for Mr. Hadid. "No such thing was going at the time. Our candidate won simply because he was popular in our district," said Mohammad Al Hadid, a relative and supporter of the late deputy. But many political analysts see it as important and significant if indeed the Brotherhood had chosen to support the late deputy and if he won because



Hami Al Tahrawi



Anwar Al Hadid

of their support. "The Brotherhood only fielded one candidate during the last elections, and that candidate won one of the two seats," said a veteran political observer. "If the other candidate won because of their support then it means they are in control of the situation and their candidate will undoubtedly win this upcoming election," the observer predicted. Deputy Mansour, who currently sits in Parliament for the Qweisneh district, is not a member of any clan, but of

Palestinian origin. Observers say that much of his support came from the many residents of the district whose origins are in the conservative West Bank district of Hebron. But most observers are also quick to point out that the proliferation of the number of candidates strengthens the Brotherhood's chances. "If the tribes would just agree on one or two candidates then the whole election would look very different," said grocer Mahmoud Daboudi, a rela-

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Cairo warns Iran, Sudan against anti-Egypt acts

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt accused Iran and Sudan of supporting anti-Egypt acts in the Gulf crisis. He said it was a key target of the enterprise is destruction of Egypt's vital Aswan High Dam, the opposition daily Al Wafd said.

The minister, Yousef Waly, warned that Egypt will strike "with an iron fist against anyone who tries to destabilise Egypt."

The warning recalled one by President Hosni Mubarak during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. He said it was a key target of the enterprise is destruction of Egypt's vital Aswan High Dam, the opposition daily Al Wafd said.

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Mr. Waly addressed a rally Thursday in the southern city of Qena, 650 kilometres South of Cairo. Al Akhbar and Cairo's other government dailies — Al Ahrar and Al Gomhuria — printed some of his remarks. But only Al Wafd reported the remarks about a threat to the Aswan High Dam.

Al Gomhuria said Mr. Waly told the rally that authorities arrested 17 arms dealers "financed by Iran and Sudan to spread anarchy in Egypt." He did not specify their nationalities.

Since a new spate of Muslim extremist violence began in southern Egypt last March, Egyptian officials have blamed Sudan and Iran of aiding the extremists. Mr. Waly's speech was the first to go on the record with details.

By an Associated Press count, 49 people died and 69 were wounded this year in battles between police and Muslim extremists and in attacks on members of Egypt's Coptic Christian community.

Sudan and Iran began forging a close relationship last year. Khartoum has denied frequent reports about Iranian arms and military and terrorist training camps in Sudan. Some reports, denied by Iran, claimed that Iranian troops are fighting alongside Sudan's army to end a nine-year-old rebellion in the south.

Reuter adds from Khartoum:

A Sudanese official on Thursday accused Egypt of giving support to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in an escalating war of words between the two Arab neighbours.

The National Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) quoted the unnamed official as saying that an SPLA delegation was given a warm official welcome during a recent visit to Egypt.

"This shows that Egypt encourages the intransigence of the rebels and approves of their determination to go on fighting," the official said.

Peace talks between the Sudanese government and the SPLA ended in failure two months ago in the Nigerian capital.

The official accused the Egyptian authorities of trying to change the Sudanese government by force. He said Cairo gave refuge to Sudanese opposition members planning attacks inside Sudan.

The Sudanese authorities have blamed the opposition abroad for an unsuccessful attempt to blow up a bridge linking Khartoum and Port Sudan, the country's main port.

Palestinians, Israelis report sea clash

BEIRUT (AP) — A Fundamentalist Palestinian group claimed Thursday the Israeli navy killed one of its fighters and captured three others in a sea clash off north Lebanon's coast earlier this week.

Islamic Jihad in Palestine said in a communiqué issued in Beirut the naval encounter occurred during "routine exercises" two kilometres off the shore of Nahal Al Barid refugee camp near Tripoli, Lebanon's second largest city, is 80 kilometres north of Beirut.

The communiqué identified the killed guerrillas as Amjad Mahmoud Ahmad Saleman, 21, a Kuwaiti-born Palestinian, but did not name the three allegedly captured and taken to Israel.

"We warn against any attempt against the lives of the three kidnapped fighters and urge all humanitarian organisations in the world to intervene to guarantee their safety," the communiqué said. "This act of piracy will not pass without revenge."

The Israeli Army confirmed the incident but said all four guerrillas were killed.

The patrol boat spotted four guerrillas involved in a sea exercise and opened fire, killing all four, the army said.

The army did not give further details.

Islamic Jihad in Palestine is believed made up of Sunni fundamentalist Palestinians. It maintains a small presence in Palestinian refugee camps in North and South Lebanon.

The latest previous claim from the group was when it claimed responsibility for a bloody ambush of the military motorcade of Micha Tamir, Israel's commander of the liaison with its surrogate militia in South Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army, early this year.

Three Israeli soldiers were killed in that ambush inside Israel's self-styled "security zone."

Israeli soldiers killed three guerrillas who allegedly infiltrated from Jordan into the occupied West Bank on Tuesday. Two soldiers were also wounded in the early morning gunfight, the army said.

The guerrillas penetrated to within 100 metres of a main highway that runs through the Jordan Valley.

Hizbollah-Palestine, a pro-Iranian Islamic fundamentalist group, claimed responsibility for the attack in Paris, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Najjab says Hussein's comments were 'personal'

By Sama Attieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official on Friday categorically rejected statements by chief advisor to the Palestinian peace negotiations Faisal Husseini that he would accept the "Allon plan" — a plan by the late Israeli Labour Party official who called for maintaining Jewish "security settlements" along the Jordan River after an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a statement issued in Amman, PLO Executive Committee member Suleiman Najjab said Mr. Husseini's statements to the Israeli Ha'aretz newspaper were based only on his personal views and not on a policy adopted by the PLO.

"The statements made by Mr. Husseini to the Israeli Ha'aretz daily on Wednesday of accepting the Allon plan, maintaining security settlements in the occupied Arab territories since 1967, and on the possibility of giving up parts of the occupied territories since that date were not discussed by the Palestinian leadership, or by the Executive Committee of the PLO, or by the Palestinian delegation (to the Mideast peace talks)," the statement said. "Therefore, this is based on his personal judgement."

Mr. Najjab, who represents the Palestinian People's (communist) Party in the PLO Executive Committee, that his party rejects Mr. Husseini's statements in their entirety and considered them harmful to the negotiating position of Palestinian delegation and the agreement negotiating plan.

Several members of the Palestinian People's Party are active members of the negotiating and advisory delegations to the peace talks.

In his comments carried by Ha'aretz, Mr. Husseini appeared willing to accept the Israeli Labour Party's argument for classifying settlements as "security" and "politically" and "politically"-oriented.

"The Israelis see the (Allon) plan for security reasons and not for historical or ideological reasons," Mr. Husseini was quoted as saying. "So we will talk about the security problem."

Mr. Husseini went on to say: "If it is clearly established that there is no other choice but to accept this plan for security reasons — including security for Palestinians and Jordanians — then we will accept it. But if it is found that the plan is not necessary for security, the situation would be different."

Israel holds Palestinian father to catch activist son

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli army has arrested a 60-year-old Palestinian father to pressure his wanted son to surrender, Palestinian and army sources said on Thursday.

Awad Kneil was arrested 10 days ago and the family received notice from the army on Wednesday that their house would be sealed within 48 hours, the sources said.

An army spokesman said the son, Ahmad Awad Kneil, 27, is one of the most wanted activists of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank.

"He is among the two most wanted fugitives," the spokesman said. "Apparently the father's arrest is tied to this."

He said the house demolition was suspended until Israel's high court rules on an appeal filed by the father.

The son heads the Black Panthers, a militant group linked to the mainstream Fatah faction.

The army later said in a statement the elder Kneil "was arrested and placed under administrative detention for reasons bound up with security."

Palestinian dies in ward

A Palestinian has died after interrogation by Israeli Shin Bet secret police, the fourth such death this year, military sources said.

Mustafa Mahmoud Barakat, 21, from the occupied West Bank town of Anabta, died on Tuesday night in Tulikarm military prison near his hometown. His family demanded an independent autopsy.

Military sources said Mr. Barakat apparently died of an asthma attack but his family told Reuters he was in excellent health and never suffered from asthma.

Mr. Barakat was the fourth Palestinian to die this year during or soon after interrogation by the Shin Bet. Arab prisoners and human rights groups accuse the Shin Bet of torture.

Relatives said Mr. Barakat was called in for questioning soon after returning from studying in Jordan last Wednesday. He was released but said to report back.

"They said he was in line health on Monday when he reported back to Tulikarm prison. On Tuesday night he was dead."

Palestinian sources said the Shin Bet suspected Mr. Barakat of working for Fatah.

The family filed an appeal with the Palestinian human rights group Al Haq for an independent pathologist to attend Mr. Barakat's autopsy.

The last prisoner to die in a Shin Bet interrogation ward was Mustafa Abdullah Alkawai, 35, in February. Israel said he died of a heart attack.

Solh rebuffs Christian bid for polls delay

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Solh on Thursday rebuffed a Christian request that the government postpone the first general elections in 20 years until a Syrian troop withdrawal.

"I do not see any justification for postponing the elections, which should take place according to the dates set by the government," Mr. Solh told reporters after meeting a delegation representing the Christian community.

Diplomats and security sources said the dispute threatened to divide the country along sectarian lines and might spark new violence. Fifteen years of civil war ended in Lebanon in 1990.

Mr. Solh said his Syrian-backed government was ready to ally Christian fears by giving them assurances that the elections would be free and fair.

Members of Parliament Albert Moukhaiber and Boutros Harb met Mr. Solh, President Elias Hrawi and Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini and relayed the request for a postponement of the electoral process set to start on Aug. 23.

Asked how the government would react if the Christians decided to boycott the elections, Mr. Solh said: "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Syria, which has considerable influence over the Lebanese administration, said through its government daily Tishreen that all attempts to obstruct the elections would fail.

"Any attempt to hinder the elections would not meet success because Lebanon is determined to continue its march to complete all steps required for the political reforms," Tishreen said.

Political sources said the Christian request posed a serious challenge to the government as hardline Christians might call for strikes and demonstrations if the polls are not postponed.

The political crisis dragged the Lebanese pound to a record low on Thursday. It closed at 2,265 to the dollar compared to 2,255 on Wednesday, the central bank said.

Christian leaders had drafted their request on Wednesday at a meeting attended by ministers, members of parliament, representatives of the Falange Party, the hardline Lebanese Forces (LF) group, smaller Christian groups and followers of exiled General Michel Aoun.

Pro-Syrian Christian officials also took part.

The Christians argue that elections before an expected Syrian withdrawal from Beirut and other areas in September would ensure the success of candidates loyal to Damascus, which has a major say in Lebanese policy under a treaty of cooperation.

Syria has about 40,000 troops in two thirds of Lebanon.

The Christians also say the polls would not be fair because hundreds of thousands of refugees, displaced by the war, were still too frightened to go to their hometowns to vote.

Political sources said that it was not clear whether Christian leaders would remain united if the government insisted on holding the elections as scheduled and that they seemed divided on how to react.

They said the hardliners, including Gen. Aoun's supporters and the LF, plan to boycott the elections. The moderates, including pro-Syrian ministers and deputies, would stand for election while a third group, including the Falange, have not decided.

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Syria, which has considerable influence over the Lebanese administration, said through its government daily Tishreen that all attempts to obstruct the elections would fail.

"Any attempt to hinder the elections would not meet success because Lebanon is determined to continue its march to complete all steps required for the political reforms," Tishreen said.

Political sources said the Christian request posed a serious challenge to the government as hardline Christians might call for strikes and demonstrations if the polls are not postponed.

The political crisis dragged the Lebanese pound to a record low on Thursday. It closed at 2,265 to the dollar compared to 2,255 on Wednesday, the central bank said.

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Pro-Syrian Christian officials also took part.

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Democrats vote for subpoenas in Iraq probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats on the House of Representatives Banking Committee voted Thursday to issue new subpoenas for documents from two states, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other federal agencies, as they probed Bush administration support for Iraq before the Gulf war.

The vote was 31-19, with 28 Democrats, two Republicans and the independent member of the committee voting to give its chairman, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, the authority to issue the subpoenas. Only one Democrat voted against the request.

House Democrats, led by Mr. Gonzalez, have accused the Reagan and Bush administrations of aiding Iraq's efforts to build nuclear and chemical weapons and of propping the Iraqi economy with loans subsidised by U.S. taxpayers.

Administration officials have admitted their pre-war policy towards Iraq was a failure, but they have denied any wrongdoing.

The documents being sought with the new subpoenas are mostly related to Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL), whose Atlanta office allegedly loaned \$5 billion to Iraq before the Gulf war. Mr. Gonzalez and other Democratic lawmakers have charged that Iraq used the money to develop its weapons.

"The subpoenas I am asking for are necessary in order to ensure the committee can complete its thorough investigation of the BNL affair," Mr. Gonzalez said. "Document subpoenas are needed to complete the study of how BNL-Atlanta financed Iraqi front companies and the U.S. companies used by these fronts."

The only individual being subpoenaed is Christopher Drogoul, the former manager of BNL's Atlanta branch, who recently pleaded guilty to federal fraud charges in the case.

The other subpoenas are for BNL itself, U.S. and foreign companies that received loans from BNL and had dealings with Iraq, Iraqi "front" companies that operated in the United States, several banks refused to comply with his requests for documents, and the states of New York and Texas.

Altogether, 25 companies and banks will receive subpoenas for documents, as well as the CIA, the Defence Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Justice Department, the Commerce Department, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which regulates banks.

Thursday's vote came two days after House Republicans called for an ethics investigation of Mr. Gonzalez's previous disclosure of classified information concerning the administration's pre-war relationship with Iraq.

The issue has taken on strong political overtones in this election year. Last month, 20 Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee asked for the appointment of an independent counsel to examine whether administration officials lied to Congress about U.S. policy toward Iraq.

By law, Attorney General William Barr has until Monday to tell the judiciary committee whether he has begun, will begin or refuses to begin a preliminary inquiry into the allegations and the reasons for his actions.

The Republicans accused Mr. Gonzalez of disseminating information received at a closed committee meeting and violating House rules against improper conduct.

The CIA, which has cut off his access to classified information, is investigating whether his disclosures have damaged intelligence sources.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Algerian Islamic group makes broadcast

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), banned after authorities cancelled elections it was poised to win, has made a 15-minute clandestine radio broadcast, a newspaper reported on Thursday. Algeria Today said anonymous telephone callers told it to listen out for the broadcast. The FM transmission on Wednesday called itself "Radio Loyalty" and consisted of speeches by three FIS leaders and a news bulletin. A court dissolved the FIS in March and its two main leaders, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, were sentenced in July to 12 years in prison for conspiring against the state. The party, which was well-organised and equipped with information technology when it was legal, has continued to issue leaflets which are photocopied and pasted up outside mosques. Security forces blame FIS sympathisers for a wave of violence since the elections were cancelled in January, including assassinations of policemen, bombs in public places and sabotage of the telephone network.

Syria, Ukraine to start air links

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria and Ukraine have agreed to open air links between the capitals as soon as possible, aviation officials said. They said the agreement was signed in Damascus by Saleh Hakim, director-general of the Syrian Civil Aviation Authority and Evan Smilanski, director of Economic relations at the Ukraine Civil Aviation Federation. Regular flights would start between Damascus and Kiev "as soon as possible to facilitate the transport of citizens and increase the commercial exchange," an aviation official said. Syria and Ukraine established diplomatic ties earlier this year after the former Soviet republic gained independence.

Iran agrees to sell oil to Gambia

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has signed a memorandum with Gambia covering the sale of crude oil and speedboats to the West African state. Iran's IRNA news agency did not give the amount of the oil sales in its report on the deal signed at the end of a three-day visit to Tehran by Gambia's President Dawda Kairaba Jawara. It reported earlier that Gambia had asked to buy 100,000 barrels per day. Iran would also help develop rural industries and fisheries in Gambia and sell it speedboats and train its naval patrols, IRNA said. President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told Tehran Radio Iranian experts would help explore and drill for oil in Gambia. "Gambia is a good case for implementing our Islamic policy of helping Muslim and undeveloped countries in Africa," he said. Mr. Jawara and his team flew to Saudi Arabia for a pilgrimage to Mecca, IRNA said.

Former hostage tries to return to 'normality'

LONDON (AP) — Former Beirut hostage John McCarthy said Thursday he has spent the year since his release at the "daunting task" of getting to know the world again. In a statement released two days before the first anniversary of his release Mr. McCarthy said he and his girlfriend, Jill Morrell, have been working on a book and getting reacquainted. "We have been trying to return to some semblance of normality," said the statement from the couple. Miss Morrell campaigned for Mr. McCarthy's release during the five years the television journalist was held in Lebanon. The couple's statement thanked everyone for allowing them the privacy "to pick up the threads of our lives again over the last year. John has been getting to know the world as it is in 1992 and coming to terms with both dramatic political changes and the way in which friends have moved on in their lives. It is still a daunting task."

Egyptian police ease curfew on Dayrut

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Residents of an Egyptian town were allowed to leave home for three hours on Thursday as police eased a 24-hour curfew imposed as part of a crackdown on Muslim extremist violence, security sources said. The sources said on Monday a force of 1,300 police and special forces patrolled Dayrut town, in the Assiut province, 325 kilometres south of Cairo, in search of hardliners blamed for a series of attacks in which about two dozen people were killed since May. The curfew was imposed 10 days ago after a police conscript was killed and another seriously wounded in an attack. In an ensuing gunbattle, an eight-year-old was killed and three people wounded. Officials said state-shops reopened on Thursday in Dayrut and nearby villages but private shopkeepers stayed home. Dayrut has been the scene of machinegun attacks by Muslim hardliners. Police have killed at least 12 suspected militants in a search operation triggered by a May attack in which 14 people, including 13 Christians, were killed.



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PROGRAMME TWO

12:00 Olympics

12:30 Les petites histoires presque vraies

13:10 Les Tortues Ninja

13:40 La Gymnastique

14:00 News in French

14:15 Fenêtre sur

14:30 News in Hebrew

14:45 News in Arabic

15:00 Super Blockers

15:30 Encounter

16:00 Variety

16:30 News in English

17:00 French feature film "Le Crime de M. Lange"

18:00 Gabriel's Fire

PRAYER TIMES

04:25 Fajr

05:20 Sunrise

12:41 Dhuhr

16:23 Asr

19:35 Maghreb

20:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedih, Tel. 810740

Assamites of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622466

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assam International Church Tel. 653236

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 20 / 33

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agaba 25 / 40

Deserts 18 / 36

Jordan Valley 23 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Agaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Agaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Walid Sabawneh 779997

Dr. Salma Al Daboubi 776751

Dr. Khalil Al Jassir 740740

Dr. Ahmad Dabab 791257

Firas pharmacy 661912

Pardous pharmacy 778336

Al Azam pharmacy 637055

Nasrallah pharmacy 626762

Al Salem pharmacy 630720

Yacoub pharmacy 644043

Shamsani pharmacy 637660

BEIRUT:

Dr. Mahmoud Saeed 661101

Al Sharrar pharmacy (273823)

ZARQA:

Dr. Mubashir Hijawi 965417

Khalil pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 991226

Blood Bank 75121

Highway Police 643402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 601021

Hotel Complaints 665960

Prison Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 771111

Water Authority 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 630381

RJ Flight Information 632000

Queen Alia Int. Airport 683320

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 613613/32

Khalil Mataraka, J. Amn. 64281/6

Abdali Mataraka, J. Amn. 64241/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 64262

Mallat, J. Amn. 630140

Palestine, Shamsani 664714

Shamsani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 645845

Al-Mustafa Hospital 66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 66127/9

Al-Ahl, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Mahjarin 777013

Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26

Army, Marfa 69111/15

Queen Alia Hospital 63240/9

Al-Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Arqa National Hospital (09)903560

Arqa Maternity (09)983332

Ben Sina Hospital (09)98978

Al-Ham Modern Hospital (09)98978

BEIRUT:

Princess Beama Hospital (02)275255

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775

St. Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)914111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

16:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, (RJ)

09:45 New Delhi (RJ)

18:15 Dhahran (RJ)

18:30 Damascus (RJ)

18:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

11:50 Colombo (RJ)

11:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)

11:15 Beirut (RJ)

06:00 Beirut (RJ)

12:30 Amman, New York (RJ)

12:40 Istanbul (RJ)

12:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)

12:50 Z. Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

13:45 Cairo (RJ)

13:55 London (RJ)

21:00 Jeddah (RJ)

21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

22:40 Larissa (RJ)

22:50 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)

07:20 Damascus (RJ)

12:30 Amman, New York (RJ)

12:40 Istanbul (RJ)

12:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)

12:50 Z. Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

13:45 Cairo (RJ)

13:55 London (RJ)

21:00 Jeddah (RJ)

21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

22:40 Larissa (RJ)

22:50 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:55 Cyprus (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upminster price in \$/kg per kg

Apples (local) 350 / 320

Bananas 300 / 350

Beans (Mashmash) 330 / 300

Cabbages 480 / 300

Cauliflowers 90 / 50

Corn 250 / 300

Cucumbers (large) 240 / 180

Cucumbers (small) 220 / 180

Eggplants 60 / 30

Garlic 330 / 430

Lemon 600 / 500

Marrow (large) 150 / 100

Marrow (small) 320 / 140

Onion (dry) 130 / 90

Onion (green) 150 / 100

Potatoes 600 / 500

Plum 600 / 300

Pepper (hot) 220 / 160

Pepper (sweet) 150 / 100

Pumpkin 180 / 120

Tomato 60 / 30

Watermelon 60 / 20

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Amman spare parts fair organised to curb imports

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day fair of locally manufactured spare parts will be organised in Amman August 11 in the course of celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 40th anniversary of his accession to the throne, according to a statement by the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Friday.

The ministry will organise the fair under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry, major mining companies in Jordan like the phosphates, potash, cement, glass and refinery companies, said the announcement.

Dr. Samir Umeish, Director of Industry at the Ministry, said that the fair was bound to open the door for Jordanian craftsmen, engineers and technicians manufacturing spare parts, to curtail imports and create jobs for Jordanians.

He said that the fair aims to open the door for new investments in engineering industries that cater to corporations requiring substantial spare parts annually. Dr. Umeish said that the fair would also bolster relations among Jordanian industries.

Sudanese envoy departs Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Sudan's Interior Minister Major General Al Zubeir Mohammad Saleh concluded Friday a two-day visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and other officials.

In a statement upon his departure, the Sudanese minister said that the visit was aimed at conducting normal consultations and coordination between Khartoum and Amman. He described bilateral relations as excellent and continuing to develop at all fronts.

At a meeting with the Regent Thursday, the Sudanese minister voiced Sudan's appreciation of Jordan for its help and support and for its efforts to restore solidarity among Arab and Islamic states.

The envoy conveyed to Prince Hassan an official invitation to visit Sudan.

The Regent said Jordan was joining efforts with Sudan to restore solidarity among Arab and Islamic nations. He said Jordan was impressed by Khartoum's development and its drive to attain self-sufficiency.

The Sudanese envoy was also received Thursday by the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb.

The Sudanese envoy was seen off by Interior Minister Jawdat Al Boul.

Concern over Vatican-Israel official talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Christian and Muslim leaders in their Israeli held Arab territories have expressed concern over Vatican moves to normalise relations with Israel. They said such steps could encourage Israeli authorities to pursue their inhuman practices in desecration of holy places.

The Arab Islamic and Christian group for Beit Al Maqdes in the occupied Arab territories sent a memorandum to His Holiness Pope John Paul II drawing his attention that any discussion with the Israelis over Jerusalem should not encroach Arab sovereignty over the city and religious freedom which has been enjoyed by the city residents through out history and enhanced with the advent of Islam.

Reports from Rome said last month that the Vatican and Israel held their first-ever official high level talks in a move both sides said was aimed at establishing diplomatic ties.

A communique issued by the Vatican said that a joint committee would study and define issues of reciprocal interest with a view towards normalising relations. The Vatican had cited Israel's unsettled boundaries, the Palestinian question and the lack of an international statute for the holy places in Jerusalem as reasons so far for not establishing ties with the Jewish state.

In its memorandum the Christian-Arab group stressed the importance that such contacts should not be made to help Israel pursue its dangerous practices in the Holy City and in other parts of the Palestinian lands. The memorandum was signed by prominent leaders of the Islamic and Christian communities in the occupied Arab territories.

JPA criticises ministry decision to licence pharmacists to open drugstores countrywide

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry recent decision to issue licences to pharmacists to open drugstores country-wide came under heavy criticism from the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) which believes that such a move would not contribute to offering good public health services.

Association President Hnsam Mismar told a press-conference at the Professional Association Complex that allowing pharmacists to open drugstores in Amman, two years after applying for a licence, cause an imbalance in the profession.

Mismar said that should the licences be issued according to the recent decision, most drugstores would be concentrated in the Amman region causing an imbalance between the required number of pharmacies for a specific number of people.

The recognised ratio is one

pharmacy for every 10,000 residents, but the Health Ministry's move would open the door to create one pharmacy for every 4,000, Mismar noted. Concentration of drugstores in the capital is bound to deprive remote regions and rural areas of Jordan where the ratio now stands at one drugstore for every 30,000 citizens, he noted.

Health Ministry sources said that licences were issued last year to 192 new drugstores and that 496 applications are still waiting their turn. But, most of the applicants request to open stores within the Greater Amman region, which includes Amman proper and the surrounding small towns. The ministry said that Jordan now has 1,900 pharmacists working within the private sector, 75 per cent of whom are concentrated in the Greater Amman area.

JPA sources were quoted as

saying that the Health Ministry move was bound to transform the profession into a trade with very strong competition among the various drugstores.

Local pharmaceutical firms are said to be supplying the local market with up to 60 per cent of its needs of medicine and according to Health Ministry estimates, a Jordanian citizen's annual average spending on medicine is around JD16.

The Health Ministry's decision to issue licences to pharmacies wishing to open drugstores in Jordan was strongly supported by a noted columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

Fahd Al Fanek said through this step the ministry aims at allowing unemployed pharmacists to find jobs and break the monopoly of old pharmacies over the local market.

Houses reach consensus on political parties draft law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament are to hold a joint session on Wednesday to decide on a draft for political parties law in Jordan. Agreement on holding the session came at a closed meeting held Thursday by representatives of the two houses, led by their respective speakers who managed to iron out the main differences between the two sides.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, those participating in the meeting were members of the law committees in both houses, as well as heads of parliamentary blocs, in addition to Ahmad Al Lawzi and Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the speakers of the Senate and the Lower House.

Petra said that the two sides agreed that an amendment proposed by the Senate to Article Five, which had stipulated that

"founding members of political parties should not be affiliated to any non-Jordanian parties or other political groups" should be dropped and to be replaced by an amendment which stipulates that "the member should not be affiliated to any non-Jordanian political party or political group."

The two sides also agreed to cancel the phrase: "Except in accordance with the provisions of the law" ... which had been added by the Senate in item (A) of Article 18. The same item is to read as follows: "Officers of political parties, their documents correspondence and means of communications are guaranteed by law and should not come under any government monitoring and should not be confiscated."

The two sides approved the Senate's amendments to a number of items in article 21 which

now reads "pledge to ensure commitment to maintaining the neutrality of all government and public organisations and education institutions which should not be utilised by political parties activities."

The two sides also agreed to cancel article 25 of the draft law which had stated: "Violators of the law would be punished in accordance with the penal code." Instead the two sides agreed to add a new item to this article which states: "... any one establishing a military or non-military group will be punished in accordance with the penal code."

Following the meeting, a statement said that should the two third majority of the joint houses sessions fail to approve the draft law in its new form, debate the draft law would not take place until the next ordinary session.

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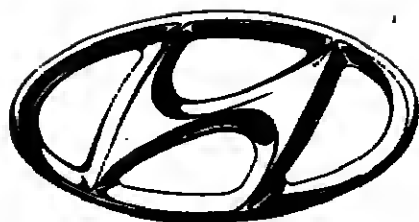
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Wrong approach

THE EXECUTION of about 40 merchants and businessmen by the Iraqi regime few days ago for allegedly committing economic crimes is not exactly the kind of image of reconstruction that Baghdad needs. This is not to condone any exploitation of the Iraqi dire economic and financial conditions in the aftermath of the Gulf war. Far from it. Any and all illegitimate profiteering in these circumstances deserves to be dealt with resolutely and firmly. But applying the capital punishment in a seemingly arbitrary and massive way in order to drive home the message that war merchants can no longer be tolerated is not exactly the most appropriate way to address the problem. War profiteering in Iraq has been going on for some time before the very eyes of the Iraqi government. For the authorities to apply all of a sudden such extreme measures as the death penalty to thwart the growing problem is not the acceptable way under international law and the other relevant human rights standards adopted or endorsed by the international community. Of all countries, Iraq should be the most hesitant in resorting to extreme policies no matter what the pretexts or reasons are. Baghdad should be busy constructing a new life and a new image, a life and an image of human rights and democracy and not of brutal suppression of economic crimes especially when such violations of economic rules might have been condoned before. The government in Iraq should have applied the brakes against the proliferation of corruption and exploitation in the country right from the word go after the ending of the military war against it by the allied forces. Better still, the Iraqi regime should have applied more sensible deterrents against the festering economic exploitations of the country's economic woes. The enemies of Iraq who are already many will surely multiply in the wake of the mass execution of Iraqi merchants. The countries that waged war against Iraq in 1990-91 will have in these most regrettable executions extra ammunition for continuing their attacks on the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Likewise the friends of Iraq and all the peoples of the world that were sympathetic with the Iraqi cause will find it even harder than ever before to persist in their expression. The solidarity with the regime in the wake of these executions. The Iraqi government must have forgotten that they are treaty obligated to phase out the death penalty and not the other way around. In flouting the international standards on the death penalty, Baghdad has once again demonstrated that it has yet to come to grips with the international standards on human rights.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THERE IS no doubt that the Jordanian public was keenly interested in parliament's discussions on corruption cases and the work of the special parliamentary investigation committee, simply because everyone is keen on seeing it that democracy and the prevalence of law ride supreme, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Democracy and the prevalence of law through Parliament can best ensure justice for all, provided they work under the umbrella of the construction, the paper said. Our democratic process deserves to be backed by all citizens of Jordan so that it can succeed, and it is important that different parties' views should be heard and respected in this context, said the daily. For its part, the Jordanian media has done its best to be fair to all discussions conducted in Parliament and has been keen on reflecting the debates, ideas and views of each deputy without any bias, the paper added. It said that the attitude of the media is a source of pride for Jordan and the Jordanian people, since the media was instrumental in helping in the process of enlightening the public about various matters of concern to all sectors. For this reason, said the paper, the media was careful to draw attention to the fact that some senior officials were accused by Parliament, but was careful not to offend anyone or publish slanderous statements against those said to be involved in corruption cases under investigation. The daily said that as one of the most important institutions that contribute to the success of the democracy, the media is bound to continue to tackle all matters objectively and in an unbiased manner, thus helping to ensure the dominance of law under the Jordanian Constitution.

IT TOOK Parliament more than two and a half years to come up with the first step intended to deal with the corruption that prevailed in the country for so long, said a columnist in Al Dustour daily. Saleh Qallab said that perhaps the most important slogan raised by the deputies during their election campaign was that of fighting corruption. Indeed, he said, corruption can take many forms, including abuse of authority, and embezzlement of public funds. It is only after two and a half years that Parliament has taken a serious step towards dealing with this important issue, and although it is a small step, one can hope for more in the coming days and months, said the writer. The next step could be for Parliament to try to retrieve the stolen funds by applying an already approved legislation which provides for dealing with those officials who make a fortune through illegal means, demanded the writer. He said that there are officials who became wealthy through holding one office after another in previous governments and semi-government departments and it is those who should be questioned more than others about their activities. The writer also called on Parliament to ban people in senior and important positions from opening bank accounts in their names or the names of their families abroad as part of the measures to prevent corruption.

The secret section in Israel's U.S. lobby that stifles American debate

By Gregory D. Shabodkin

Following is the first of a two-part article on Israel's U.S. lobby's systematic drive to suppress debate of U.S. policy in the Middle East. The writer, a free-lancer, in Washington DC, was an opposition researcher for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in 1990, 1991. The article is reprinted from the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

During the reign of terror that Senator Joseph McCarthy unleashed in the 1950s, when the reputations and lives of many loyal Americans were ruined by false charges of "communism" and "treason," American Jewry was overwhelmingly opposed to the Wisconsin senator and his blackmail by blacklists. According to the Gallup polls of the time, the percentage of U.S. Jews who opposed McCarthy's smear tactics was twice that of the rest of the population. Many Jewish organisations passed resolutions condemning McCarthy's ruthless character assassination.

Today, however, such national Jewish organisations as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) are using the same tactics to stifle open debate of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Secretly circulated lists

To conduct this "neo-McCarthyism," AIPAC operates a covert section within its research department that monitors and keeps files on politicians, journalists, academics, Arab-American activists, Jewish liberals, and others it labels "anti-Israel."

AIPAC selects information from these files and secretly circulates lists of the "guilty," together with their alleged political misdeeds, buttressed by their statements, often totally out of context.

Just as McCarthy's permanent investigations subcommittee labeled criticism of specific policies of the U.S. government as "anti-American," or "pro-Soviet," AIPAC labels criticism of Israeli government policies "anti-Israel," "pro-Arab" or "pro-PLO." Still worse is the pro-Israel lobby's redefinition of "anti-Semitism" to include any such criticism of Israel or its actions.

To date, revelations about AIPAC's blacklisting and smear tactics have barely scratched the surface of the pro-Israel lobby's secret activities. Former Congressman Paul Findley, in his 1985 best-selling book "They Dare to Speak Out: People and Institutions Confront Israel's Lobby," documented what he could see of that lobby's impact on U.S. politics, defence, foreign and economic policies, as well as academia and the media.

However, as an insider who worked within AIPAC's stealth section, I can confirm what Mr. Findley could only surmise. That an organised blacklisting operation exists is a tragic fact that no longer should be ignored.

AIPAC's "opposition research" department traces its roots to L.L. (Sy) Kenen, who founded AIPAC in 1954. As editor of AIPAC's weekly "Near East Report," he often attacked critics of Israel in his aptly titled column, "The Monitor." Besides monitoring, analysing, and re-

sponding to "anti-Israel" comment and activities in the United States, Mr. Kenen also kept files on AIPAC's "enemies." In his final year AIPAC began to expand its intelligence-gathering operations.

Mr. Kenen's memoirs, "Israel's Defence Line: Her Friends and Foes in Washington," record how AIPAC pooled resources in 1974 with the American Jewish Committee and other national Jewish organisations to create a "truth squad." Its purpose was to combat "pro-Arab propaganda" and the emerging "Arab lobby," which Mr. Kenen believed to be a growing threat to the U.S.-Israel relationship.

"While vigorously defending Israel's perceived interests, the 'truth squad' turned into a kind of Jewish thought police," journalist Robert I. Friedman explains. "Investigators — sometimes overzealous Jewish college students, sometimes sources with access to U.S. intelligence agencies — were used to ferret out critics of Israel, Jew or gentile, wherever they might be."

At ADL and AIPAC, files were opened on journalists, politicians, scholars and community activists. Their speeches and writings were monitored, as were, in some cases, their other professional activities. And they were often smeared with charges of anti-Semitism or with the pernicious label of self-hating Jew. The intention was to stifle debate on the Middle East within the Jewish community, the media and academia, for fear that criticism of any kind would weaken the Jewish state.

When Mr. Kenen stepped down as executive director of AIPAC in December 1974, the task of monitoring Israel's "enemies" was left to the department of research and information at AIPAC, where it has remained ever since.

Monitoring Israel's "enemies"

Morris Amitay, Mr. Kenen's successor as AIPAC executive director, did not follow Mr. Kenen's practice of countering "pro-Arab propaganda" with polished editorials in the Near East Report.

Mr. Amitay was more concerned with developing AIPAC into a first-rate lobbying organisation, as demonstrated by the fact that AIPAC grew dramatically during his six-year reign. These were key years in the growth of intelligence gathering.

Some of the growth resulted from the challenge presented by a small, dovish, Jewish organisation of the late 1970s known as Breira. "Breira, the Hebrew word for 'alternative,' was organised by a tiny group of American Jewish rabbis, professors and other activists from the civil rights and anti-war movement of the 1960s."

Recognising that the U.S. Jewish community was not monolithic on the subject of Israel, Breira encouraged American Jews to question Israel's policies in the occupied territories after the 1967 war and to engage in an open and frank debate on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. Many Breira positions reflected those of the Peace Now movement in Israel.

However, American Jewish organisations would not tolerate in the U.S. the dissent that char-

acterised political debate in Israel. Instead AIPAC and other Jewish organisations set out to silence Breira by discrediting its members. Although these Jewish peacekeepers were motivated by love and concern for Israel, they were smeared as "anti-Israel," "pro-PLO," and "self-hating Jews."

Mr. Kenen, still serving as acting editor of AIPAC's Near East Report, charged that Breira "undermined U.S. support for Israel." Only one prominent Jewish leader defended Breira. He was Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, who called the attack on Breira a "witch hunt." He was ignored, however, and the swift and successful campaign to snuff out Breira set the "rules" for dissent in the American Jewish community, as well as who would be the "enforcers" of these "rules."

As Edward Tivnan observed in his book, "The Lobby: Jewish Political Power and American Foreign Policy," "By attacking Breira, Jewish leaders had turned over much of their power to AIPAC; Israel's most loyal agent in the U.S. and a proved enemy of dissent from Israeli policies, among Jews as well as gentiles."

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, AIPAC published an annual "Who's Who" of "anti-Israel organisations and personalities, providing important background information for AIPAC members who must deal with them in the political arena." AIPAC photocopied these "enemies lists" to meet increasing requests by its members for materials on "anti-Israel" forces.

AIPAC's "war for Washington"

Thomas Dine, a former legislative assistance to Senator Ted Kennedy, who replaced Mr. Amitay in 1980 as AIPAC executive director, expanded AIPAC's opposition research. This was part of Mr. Dine's "war for Washington," inspired by what he portrayed as the dramatic growth of "anti-Israel" organisations in the nation's capital. AIPAC was particularly worried about the Arab-American community, just beginning to organise.

In August 1982, AIPAC hired Amy Goott as its first full-time employee to monitor Israel's "enemies." Mr. Goott was recruited from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, where she had similar duties. In a speech at the 1983 AIPAC Policy Conference Mr. Goott called on AIPAC members to send useful information to her in Washington.

In June 1983, AIPAC published "The Campaign to Discredit Israel," Co-authored by Mr. Goott. As Mr. Dine explained in the handbook's preface, its purpose was to update the activities of "anti-Israel" organisations and individuals, and to provide a "more complete and convenient analysis of this activity" to "meet the needs of AIPAC members."

Yet, despite its glossy cover and carefully worded and seemingly objective descriptions, "The Campaign to Discredit Israel" was nothing more than a blacklist. By lumping them together, it sought to categorise critics of all kinds as "enemies" of Israel. The final chapter, "A Directory of the Actors," profiled 21 organisations and 38 individuals to be monitored and discredited

whenever possible.

At about the same time that AIPAC published "The Campaign to Discredit Israel," the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith published its own document entitled "Pro-Arab Propaganda in America: Vehicles and Voices." Overlaps in the texts and the timing reflect Ms. Goott's employment by both organisations during the period both publications were in preparation.

"The primary accusation leveled against the groups and individuals listed in the 'B'nai B'rith and AIPAC books is that they are 'pro-Palestinian' or 'pro-PLO,'" Chery Rubenberg writes in her book, "Israel and the American National Interest."

"Pro-Israeli groups have succeeded in associating the words 'Palestinian' and 'PLO' with terrorism in the minds of Americans; then with techniques reminiscent of the McCarthy era, they smear, their opposition with the label 'pro-PLO.'"

The smear campaign did not go totally unchallenged within the U.S. Jewish community. In December 1983, New York Times Columnist Anthony Lewis criti-

cised AIPAC's tactics, particularly the inclusion in its "enemies list" of Walid Khalidi, a Palestinian intellectual living in Boston, as does Lewis.

Mr. Khalidi supports a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In its handbook, however, AIPAC quoted selectively from one of his articles to depict him as an extremist calling for the destruction of Israel.

"Joe McCarthy could not have produced a nastier distortion" of Mr. Khalidi's views, Mr. Lewis wrote. He suggested that Israel's lobby should welcome Palestinian moderation instead of trying to "smear" it.

In November 1984, the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), the largest organisation of Middle East educators in the United States, unanimously condemned AIPAC and ADL blacklisting. MESA called on both national Jewish organisations to "disavow and refrain from such activities" as soliciting "unbalanced information on students, faculty and other parties at American university campuses" and "listing factually inaccurate and unsubstantiated assertions

that defame specific students, teachers and researchers as 'pro-Arab propagandists,' who 'use their anti-Zionism as merely a guise for their deeply felt anti-Semitism.'"

When it released the first edition of "The Campaign to Discredit Israel" in 1983, AIPAC had announced plans to publish updated versions annually. However, due to the negative publicity it engendered, the first edition was also the last. Instead, AIPAC continued its monitoring of "anti-Israel" activities, but disseminated the results secretly.

Going underground

AIPAC's decision to take its opposition research underground coincided with the hiring in the mid-1980s of Michael Lewis and Anna Gottlieb. Ms. Gottlieb joined AIPAC after a stint at the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI). Mr. Lewis came to AIPAC from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a think tank closely

(Continued on page 5)

THE WEEK IN PRINT Parliament steps in the right direction

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

THE DAILY newspapers in the past week tackled the Middle East question in light of Israel's practices, Yitzhak Rabin's expected visit to Washington, Iraq and domestic affairs.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Mr. Rabin is going to Washington in order to demand the loan guarantees which the U.S. believes Israel has earned by agreeing to partially freeze settlements in the Arab territories.

Mr. Rabin has not said he is willing to approve a plan of exchanging land for peace, in implementation of U.N. resolutions, and if the Americans decided to reward the Israeli premier for a small step, it would mean that the U.S. administration is desperate to get Jewish votes at any price.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the Arab demand that a total Israeli withdrawal from Jerusalem and the other parts of the occupied territories should be respected before even an autonomy rule can be arranged in the Palestinian lands.

Abdul Rahim Omar said that only if Mr. Rabin announces that Israel will withdraw from the occupied lands can the Arabs find a justification for the current participation in the peace process.

His colleague in Al Ra'i daily, Mahmoud Al Rimawi, said that the Arabs and the Palestinians heard nice words from the Arab countries hosting refugees recently. There is need for these countries to support the Palestinian refugees by deeds rather than by words and this can be done for example by solving the issue of travel documents carried by Palestinians who are evicted from the Gulf and do not know where to go as Arab countries do not admit them with only Palestinian travel documents.

The writer said that the Arab countries can improve the quality of life of the refugees in their camps, in cooperation with UNRWA, while continuing a political diplomatic drive to reestablish the Palestinian rights in their homeland.

Dr. Fahd Al Fanek drew attention to a statement issued by the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine which reaffirmed the Arab countries' national rights and interests reasserting their determination not to reach any peace treaty with Israel unilaterally.

But the writer said that these states which surround Israel have not reached the minimum level of agreement strategy to be adopted at the ongoing peace process with Israel.

He said that in the absence of unified stand Israel could continue to hold on to its position and give the Arabs nothing in exchange for peace.

In a column published by Al Dustour daily, Munir Shqir criticised Palestine President

Yasser Arafat for his repeated call to meet with Mr. Rabin and the Israeli leadership to reach peace.

The writer said that such calls can only drive Mr. Rabin to be more adamant in his position and can not help the Palestinian negotiators at the peace process. She said that peace can only come with the Palestinian people and through them and not through personal contacts between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that there are real fears that Mr. Rabin is pressuring the United States to help him reach separate settlement with the Palestinians and end the deadlock in the peace process.

Salameh Ekour said that the Palestinians have already agreed to resume the talks over autonomy and the Palestinians are making arrangements for internal police and security for the occupied territories to start soon.

He said that Mr. Rabin is after fragmenting the Palestinian issue with a view to liquidating it at the expense of the Palestinian people.

A columnist in Al Dustour refers to the Vatican announcement that moves are being made to normalise relations with Israel and said that such a move should be made as long as the Israelis continue to occupy Arab lands.

George Haddad said that differences between the Vatican and the Jews are deep rooted in history and should not be linked to Arab countries' decision to open peace negotiations with Israel.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the Arab countries should learn lessons from Germany and Japan, which were devastated in the World War II but succeeded in becoming leading world economic powers.

Khaled Mahadin said that Arab cities were not devastated like those of Japan and Germany and that the Arabs possess vast potentials which they should utilise for the construction of a major world force. The writer said that it is the task of the defeatist Arabs to rise and build the nation.

Dr. Samir Qitami wrote in Al Dustour about the situation following the failure of the U.N. inspectors to detect any secrets in the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture building. The writer said President Bush's attempt to subjugate Iraq has failed and his drive to deceive the American public collapsed.

He said that the American people are being deceived by their leadership and by the government-controlled media which is manipulated by the Zionist lobby.

Washington's military exercises in Kuwait were described by Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, as a new provocation against Iraq following the failed attempt to impose America's will on the

Iraqi government through the U.N. inspection teams.

The writer said that while atrocities continue in Palestine, no Arab country has taken any step to pressure Washington to end Israel's practices at a time when the Arabs are condemning America's military threats to their sister Arab state.

Turning to local issues, a columnist in Al Dustour urged the Lower House of Parliament to issue a clear statement about continued harassment of Aqaba-bound shipping on the part of the U.S.-led forces in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Taber Al Udwai said that the continued sanctions against Jordan are designed to cut off the Kingdom's trade with Iraq, America did to the trade with the Gulf states.

The writer said that inspection of ships and delay in the arrival of goods are continuing because Jordan refuses to help in the process of starving the Iraqi people.

Turning to the corruption cases being debated in Parliament, Mahmoud Al Rimawi said that the public has the right to know the facts about corruption and abuse of authority.

The writer said that the Parliament should be fully authorised to hold all senior officials accountable for their misdeeds and should serve as a watchdog over government activities.

Saleh Al Qallab, who writes for Al Dustour, said that the Parliament's step, which came two and half years after parliamentary elections, constituted a good step in the right direction. The writer demanded that those found to be responsible for corruption should be made to return the stolen funds.

Tareq Masarweh said that corruption has permeated the government's financial and administrative systems and demanded that through laws Parliament should eliminate this corruption once and for all.

The columnist who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that Parliament should introduce a system that would make it impossible for corruption to continue.

The same columnist tackled the continued American harassment of Aqaba-bound shipping demanding that Jordan should not accept whatever Washington says, and must say no to any U.S. attempts to force Jordan to starve the people of Iraq or to follow in the footsteps of those Arabs aligned behind Washington.

Our protest against Washington's continued sanctions against the Kingdom should take the form of something harmful to American interests, he said, one aspect of undermining Washington's interest is to withdraw from the ongoing peace negotiations which he described as only serving the purposes and objectives of the United States and Israel.

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'AIPAC — generated misinformation'

(Continued on Page 4)

associated with the pro-Israel lobby. He is the son of Princeton University "orientalist" Bernard Lewis, whose writing have been criticised in the Middle East for denigrating Islam as a religion and Arabs as a people.

Michael Lewis, the present head of AIPAC's stealth section, innocuously named Policy Analysis, describes it as a "clearing-house" for information on anti-Israel organisations and activists to provide a "resource, and fulfill a need, unreplicated anywhere else." He has provided negative information both to rival politicians and to journalists about prominent individuals whom AIPAC considers to be "anti-Israel."

In one case Mr. Lewis provided information that became the basis of a racist brochure mailed to voters in California's 44th congressional district by candidate Randy "Duke" Cunningham's campaign in the spring of 1990. The brochure accused former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Joseph Mr. Ghongassian, Mr. Cunningham's Republican primary election opponent, of being "bank-rolled Arab oil interests." The brochure, featuring a photo of Mr. Ghongassian with a drawing of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, asked: "We don't need a congressman bought and paid for by these special interests. Do we?"

What made this brochure particularly offensive was the fact that Mr. Cunningham's campaign listed contributors to Mr. Ghongassian with Arabic sounding last names, all of whom were

in fact U.S. citizens, and included the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA). Mr. Ghongassian, an Egyptian-born Armenian and naturalised U.S. citizen, lost the primary race against Cunningham who, with AIPAC's support, went on to win a seat in the 102nd Congress.

Mr. Lewis reports that AIPAC also "provided Steve Emerson with information on Alexander Cockburn." That followed a heated exchange between Israel-apologist Emerson and frequent critic of Israel Cockburn on the editorial page of "The Wall Street Journal" in May 1990. Mr. Emerson then turned to Michael Lewis at AIPAC for some defamatory material on Mr. Cockburn. The result was a letter to the editor of "The Wall Street Journal" on June 4, 1990, in which Mr. Emerson attacked Mr. Cockburn for his "financial agenda."

"It ought to be remembered," Mr. Emerson wrote, "that several years ago Mr. Cockburn secretly took \$10,000 from an organisation that had been funded primarily by the governments of Iraq and Libya and by a bank known as the PLO's bank."

Mr. Emerson's charge was based on a story which had appeared in a weekly alternative newspaper, "The Boston Phoenix," on Jan. 10 1984. The Phoenix reported that Mr. Cockburn received in 1982 a \$10,000 grant from the now defunct Institute of Arab Studies to write a book on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and, because Mr. Cockburn did not inform them, editors of the "Village Voice" "indefinitely suspended" him due to the "appearance of conflict (of interest) and nondisclosure."

Not surprisingly, AIPAC was the source of the original Phoenix story as well as Mr. Emerson's attack based on it in "The Wall Street Journal." Alan Lupo, "The Boston Phoenix" reporter who broke the story back in 1984, said AIPAC had told him the Institute for Arab Studies was "linked to a \$100 million campaign to sway U.S. policy against Israel." In fact, the Institute had U.S. tax-exempt status and listed individual contributors within the United States until it closed down in 1983 due to a lack of funds.

Deploping the AIPAC-generated "misinformation," editor David Schneiderman of the "Village Voice" wrote on Jan. 24, 1984: "What Cockburn did not do was take money from an 'Arab propaganda group.' Moreover he was not 'bought' — he clearly received the grant because of views he already firmly held. The Phoenix offered no evidence that the Institute (of Arab Studies) is anything more than what it purports to be. And despite the reporter's clumsy attempt to say so, Arab does not

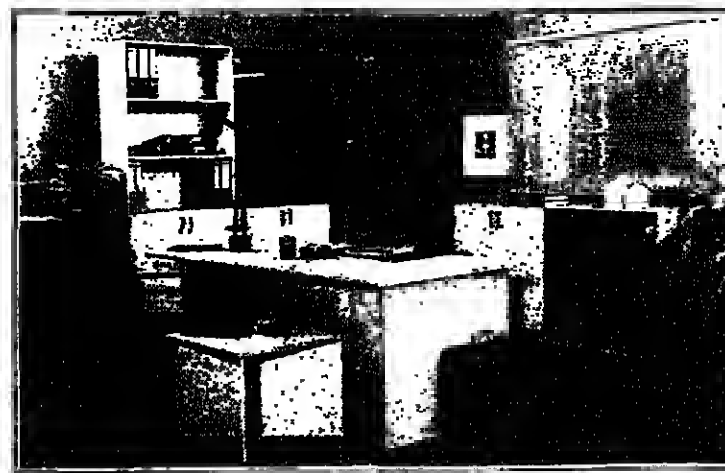
always equal Palestinian which does not always equal terrorist. His unquestioned adoption of claims by the Anti-Defamation League and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, hardly disinterested parties, is poor journalism."

Even "The Wall Street Journal," a newspaper with a demonstrated pro-Israel editorial bias, questioned the AIPAC-originated charges. In a Jan. 13, 1984 editorial, WSJ editor Robert

Bartley wrote: "Among all the things I can imagine Alex doing, this one seems fairly innocuous... On all this we have no opinion, except that even Arabs should enjoy freedom of speech."

The "Wall Street Journal" continued to run Mr. Cockburn's monthly column opposite the editorial page. Said the Journal, tongue only partly in cheek, "We hired him because of his biases, which we're sure are totally incorruptible."

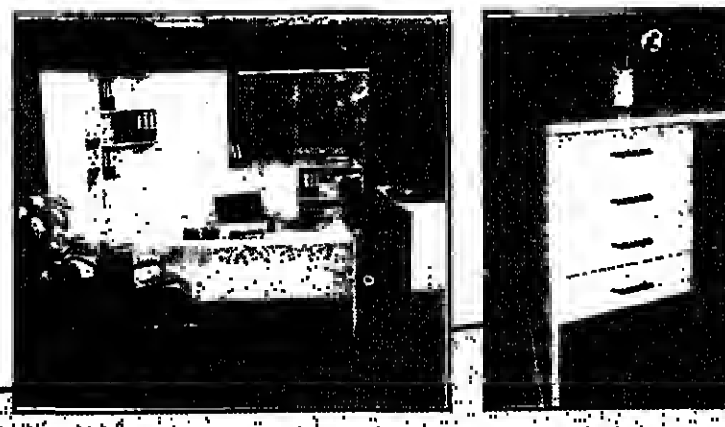
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U.N. team

(Continued from page 1)

plemented by its enemies, Iraq has emerged successful from this hard test and stronger and more confident," Al Thawra said.

The Iraqi capital was closed down for Friday.

Mr. Smidovich was expected to meet Iraqi officials to finalise arrangements and to be formally informed that Iraq had placed all government ministries off limits to the inspectors on Thursday.

"We reject categorically visits to headquarters of ministries because the aim... is to hurt Iraq's sovereignty and independence," Information Minister Hamed Youssef Hummadi told a news conference.

Brotherhood

(Continued from page 1)

tive of one of seven candidates. "In Madaba they are doing things better," he said.

In Madaba, the Sixth district — where their Brotherhood won two of three seats and the Christian candidate with their support in 1989, only three candidates are running.

When voters pick up their registration cards by August 10 it should be clear how many of Qweisemeh's 35,834 registered voters will be heading for the polls on Aug. 18.

Shaath

(Continued from page 1)

Shaath added. The upcoming round of Arab-Israeli talks in the U.S. capital will be first with the newly installed government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

During that round, Israel is expected to propose holding general elections in the occupied territories to select an administrative council of 13 to 15 Palestinians to run the affairs of the West Bank and Gaza during autonomy, according to Israeli media reports this week.

It was not clear what powers the council would wield during the five-year period of autonomy. Mr. Shamir has proposed municipal elections, which Palestinians strongly opposed.

Dr. Shaath said Palestinians would insist on electing a 180-member assembly with full law-making authority — a move Mr. Rabin rules out.

Al Faisali

(Continued from page 1)

sed some of its key players. Al Ramtha's Ahmad Abu Nsouh, Fayez Bidawi and Salim Diyabati while al Wihdat's Nasser Ghannour, Ibrahim Sa'diyeh and Youssef Al Shammari did not play.

Al Hussein came in second place after they beat Al Ahli 2-1 on Thursday, and tied with Al Faisali but trailed on score difference.

The three teams to be relegated are Sahab, Al Arabi, and Yarmouk Amman.

Al Faisali and Al Hussein will play an exhibition match on Tuesday on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

Rabin

(Continued from page 1)

Middle East peace talks set to begin in Washington on Aug. 24.

He brushed aside reports that Palestinian leaders had set a March, 1993, date for elections to select delegates for a council to administer self-rule.

"Nothing will take place in (the West Bank) and Gaza except as a result of talks between us and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," Mr. Rabin said.

Palestinian leaders said on Thursday they would do everything possible for a breakthrough in the peace talks.

"We are committed to doing everything possible to ensure the success of the peace process," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. "But peace is not a unilateral act. We need reciprocity from the other side."

"We know that the Americans are interested in a breakthrough. We are also interested and will facilitate a breakthrough," Palestinian negotiator Ghassan Al Khatib said.

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France, U.S. to duel for gold in men's 400m relay



BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — France and the United States, the teams expected to duel for the gold in the men's 400-metre relay, easily qualified for the semifinals Friday.

Hours after winning Olympic gold in the 200 metres, Mike Marsh was back on the track to lead the U.S. 400-metre relay team through the first qualifying round.

The squad of Marsh, Leroy Burrell, Dennis Mitchell and James Jett ran in 38.95 seconds and placed second to Cuba which

had the fastest qualifying time at 38.81.

"It's early in the morning and we didn't get much sleep. I only had four hours," said Marsh, who won the 200 in 20.01 seconds Thursday night. "No one ran full speed. We had safe passes. We have a lot left."

The French team of Max Morinier, Daniel Sangouma, Gilles Quencheville, Bruno Marie-Rose coasted to the next round with a time of 39.49, the sixth overall. But they were expected to offer the toughest challenge to the Americans, who will replace Jett with Carl Lewis in the anchor position for subsequent rounds.

Canada, with Ben Johnson running the first leg, also reached Friday night's finals.

In the men's 50-kilometre walk, Andrey Perlov of the Unified Team won the gold medal in 3 hours, 50 minutes, 13 seconds. Carlos Mercenario of Mexico

took silver in 3:52:09 and Ronald Weigel of Germany won bronze in 3:53:45.

Former world-record holder Jan Zelezny of Czechoslovakia led 12 qualifiers into the final of the men's javelin with a toss of 83.96 metres (275 feet, 5 inches). Tom Pukstys of the United States was second with 81.16 metres (266-3).

The air, once again, belonged to Lewis Thursday night. The track, and a cherished record, belonged to Kevin Young. The ground, unfortunately, belonged to Gail Devers.

Lewis won his heralded duel with world record-holder Mike Powell — barely. Lewis took an unprecedented third straight long jump gold medal by 3 centimetres (1 1/4 inches).

He won at 8.67 metres (28 feet, 5 1/2 inches) on his first jump. Powell had 8.64 (28-4 1/4) on his last.

Young made a stunning run in shattering Edwin Moses' mark in the 400-metre hurdles. Young routed the field, finishing in 46.78 seconds, well under the once-invincible Moses' 47.02, set in 1983.

Owen Torrence sped to victory in the women's 200 metres to complement Marsh's triumph.

In the men's 200, Marsh led nearly all the way. His time of 20.01 was well off the Olympic record of 19.73 set in Wednesday's semifinals.

Gail Devers came within a few strides of joining her compatriots in triumph, but clipped the final hurdle and stumbled to the ground as four others crossed the finished line in the women's 100-metre hurdles.

Devers, the 100-metre dash champion, ended up bruised and empty handed in the hurdles as Paraskevi Patoulidou became the

first Greek woman to win an Olympic track medal.

"I was fighting to stay on my feet to cross the finish line," Devers said. "That was my thought: To cross the finish line. I just lost the balance."

It's a wonder Dav Johnson finished the decathlon at all.

Step by painful step, he braved a stress fracture in his right ankle and won the bronze medal in the event he was favoured to win.

Robert Zmek of Czechoslovakia won with 8,611 points, while Spain's Antonio Penalver was second with 8,412 points. Johnson had 8,309 points in third.

The team of former Soviet athletes had 87 medals, including 35 gold.

The Americans, who also picked up one gold in wrestling and another in synchronized swimming, had 86, including 27 golds. Their basketball "dream team" moved to a gold medal meeting with Croatia by drubbing Lithuania 127-76 in a semifinal.

Next came Germany, with 19 gold and 58 medals in all, and China, with 16 and 50. The Germans gained one gold Thursday in men's epee team fencing.

South Korea joined host Spain and Hungary with 10 gold medals each by winning one in wrestling. Its rival, North Korea, also won a wrestling gold, and Sweden won its first gold of these games with Jan Ove Waldner's victory over France's Jean Philippe Gatien in men's singles table tennis.

In basketball Croatia didn't make it to the gold medal game. Drazen Petrovic made two free throws with nine seconds to play in a 75-74 semifinal victory over the Unified Team.

After the first half of the boxing semifinals, Cuba had five men in the finals.

In freestyle wrestling, American Bruce Baumgartner took the third Olympic medal of his career by beating Canada's Jeff Thue 8-0 in the super heavyweight finals.

South Korea's Park Jang-Soon beat defending champion Kenney Monday of the United States for the welterweight gold medal, and Kim Il of North Korea beat Kim Jong-Shin of South Korea in the light flyweight finals.

In solo synchronized swimming, American Kristin Babb-Sprague won gold, but Canadian officials said a scoring mistake cost their top swimmer the title. Babb-Sprague was awarded 191.848 points to 191.717 for Canada's Sylvie Frechette. One of the five judges punched in a score by mistake and tried to make it higher, but an apparent computer malfunction prevented her from doing so and the referee would not allow the change.

Fumiko Okuno of Japan won the bronze medal with 187.056.

In tennis, Marc Rosset of Switzerland ousted Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2, to advance to Saturday's gold medal Cherkasov of Russia 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 6-3.

Medals table

BARCELONA (R) — Olympic medals table after the 14th day of competition Friday (tabulated: Gold, silver, bronze):

Team	G	S	B
CIS	35	29	23
United States	27	32	27
Germany	18	16	23
China	16	20	15
Hungary	10	8	2
South Korea	10	4	11
Spain	10	2	0
France	8	6	13
Australia	6	8	9
Canada	6	3	6
Italy	5	5	7
Cuba	5	3	8
Britain	5	3	7
Romania	4	4	7
Japan	3	7	10
Poland	3	4	7
Czechoslovakia	3	2	1
North Korea	3	0	3
Netherlands	2	3	6
Indonesia	2	2	1
Norway	2	2	0
Turkey	2	1	2
Greece	2	0	0
Bulgaria	1	6	4
New Zealand	1	4	4
Sweden	1	4	3
Kenya	1	3	0
Brazil	1	1	0
Denmark	1	0	3
Estonia	1	0	0
Lithuania	1	0	0
Morocco	1	0	1
Malta	0	3	1
Austria	0	2	0
Namibia	0	2	0
Belgium	0	1	2
Yugoslavs	0	1	2
Finland	0	1	1
Israel	0	1	1
Latvia	0	1	1
Peru	0	1	0
Taiwan	0	1	0
Slovenia	0	0	2
Bahamas	0	0	1
Colombia	0	0	1
Ethiopia	0	0	1
Malaysia	0	0	1
Mongolia	0	0	1
Surinam	0	0	1
Iran	0	0	1

IAAF demands report on Torrence allegations

BARCELONA (AP) — Track and field's world governing body has demanded an investigation and a written report from the U.S. Olympic Committee over drug allegations by 200-metre gold medalist Gwen Torrence.

A spokesman for the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said Friday the organization wrote to USOC President William Hybl regarding the case.

Torrence said after last Saturday's 100-metre final, in which she finished fourth, that some runners in the field used drugs.

Her remarks, however, were confusing. At first, she pointed to two of the top three finishers, then said she meant three in the entire field.

The following day, Torrence apologized to Juliet Cuthbert, the runner-up, and the Jamaican quoted the American as saying she told her she was referring to gold medalist Gail Devers of the United States and bronze medalist Irina Privalova of the Unified Team.

Torrence has refused to name names publicly.

The IAAF's request to Hybl was made before Thursday night's 200. After the race, Torrence resumed her tirade about drug users.

"I know what I said after the 100 made me look like a sore loser, but it wasn't for that reason," she said. "Before the 100 metres, I didn't see how I could finish lower than third."

This was not the first time Torrence has spoken out about drugs.

Last year, at the world championships in Tokyo, where she finished second in the 100 and 200 to Katrin Krabbe, she said she thought the German was using drugs.

Early this year, Krabbe and two other German sprinters,

Silke Moller and Grit Breuer, were suspended for four years each when all three of their urine samples were identical following an out-of-competition drug test while they were training in South Africa.

Later, the suspensions were lifted by the German track and field federation for insufficient evidence.

This week, there were reports that Krabbe, who is being tested frequently, turned up a positive sample during an out-of-competition test in July. The IAAF has denied it.

Still, Torrence's suspicions of Krabbe.

"I did take satisfaction from being right about Krabbe," Torrence said after her 200-metre victory. "I had suspicion and I said it vocally."

"I felt so bad in Tokyo" after congratulating Krabbe, she said. "People don't win a gold medal in the World Championships and then start taking drugs. Everyone knows they don't test in South Africa."

"The drugs are here — in swimming and track and field. No one wants to believe, but they're here," she said.

"Krabbe was the 'great white hope.' If it was one of 'us' got caught, it would be a life-size picture. As it was, it was a tiny piece in the paper."

Torrence's comments incensed Bob Kersee, Devers' coach.

Kersee said he spoke to officials from the IAAF, USOC, International Olympic Committee and the Athletics Congress, demanding that Torrence be forced to name names or be sanctioned.

"She's slandering people..." Kersee said.

An IAAF rule says that anyone deemed doing anything harmful to the sport or other competitors can be punished.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHAH
& TAMMAM HIRSHI
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ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 10 9 5

♥ Q J 8 4 3

♦ 4

♣ A 9 7 3

WEST

♠ A 3

♥ K 10 9 5

♦ K 7 6 3

♣ 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ K Q J 7 8

♥ Void

♦ A 10 9 8 2

♣ K 10 8

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ?

We are convinced that Sherlock Holmes not only played bridge, but did so exceedingly well. The game was made for a person with his analytical ability. He would have led on this hand. Before reading on, leave only the West hand exposed.

North-South are playing a forcing club system, where all hands containing 17 or more high-card points are opened one club. That fact, together with the auction, is all the information you need to defeat the contract. What is your opening

lead?

What do you know about the North-South hands? South has a maximum of 16 high-card points, and North, for a single raise, has a range of 6-10. Despite this, South leaped directly to game, without even making an invitational bid.

To justify the jump to game with minimal high-card values, South must have considerable distributional assets. So West decided to cut down on the enemy ruffing power by leading the ace of trumps and another.

The attack proved lethal. Declarer could get only one diamond ruff in dummy, so there were two unavoidable losers in that suit as long as East split his honors when the ace was led from the table. The only chance for 10 tricks was to hope both the queen and jack of clubs would drop, or that one of the defenders held both the ace and king of hearts and club length, and would be caught in a squeeze. When neither of these possibilities materialized, declarer went down a trick.

No other lead will set the contract. A club or heart opening salvo lets declarer cash three minor-suit winners and ruff three diamonds in dummy, in addition to scoring four trump tricks in hand.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 8, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

There are so many tasks that need doing that you hardly know where to start but even with no aspects to help you, start now, if you are to hold on to the goodwill of those to whom you committed.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have been having some special projects in mind that have dragged along and you now have a day to continue as started until actually finished.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A situation at your residence requires attention if it is to be solved in an effective manner so don't go off on some new undertaking.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You find some communications can cause you to take some quick steps that are highly unwise and undesirable and if message be very diplomatic.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is certainly a day not to procrastinate any further in paying bills and making collections due you and also in improving property.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Keep your views muted since they are apt to be contrary to the actual suggestions required in order to solve a matter of importance to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the day to do whatever private matters need your attention.

in ways that are proven and it would be wise to do so without causing possible comments.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your ideas for gaining the personal things you want the most are way of base now so put off definitely going after them until a better moment.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It is no day to take exception or in any way to cross one who is in a position of influence for it could boomerang to your worldly discredit.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are itching to get off to some new and more glamorous outlets but this is no day to do so and you'd be wise to continue in proven duties.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Promises you have made can be gotten out of the way once and for all time now if you put your mind to them and handle every phase directly.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have agreed to do something for an outside contact which unless carried through conscientiously now can cause opposition in the future.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what you can do to join with a fellow associate in a project that requires your united efforts in performing in a meticulous fashion.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WADAR

SPAWM

RALLOF

JORNAG

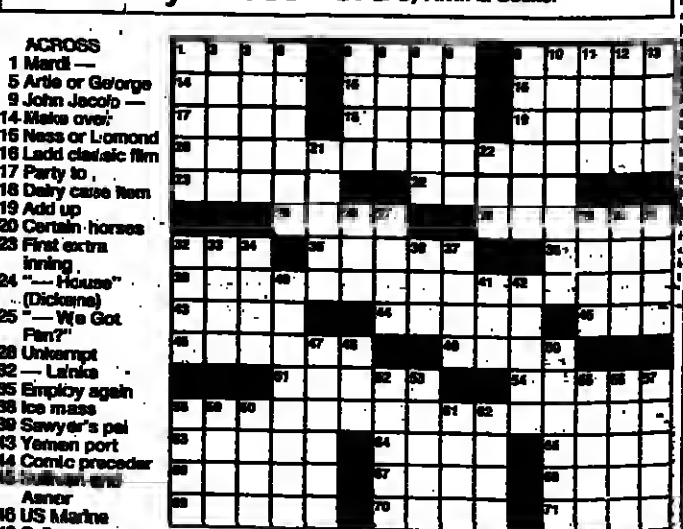
Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: FOCUS SMOKY COUSIN EYELED.

Answer: What the doctor said the hypochondriac had — A "SICK" SENSE

THE Daily Crossword by Alvin L. Becker

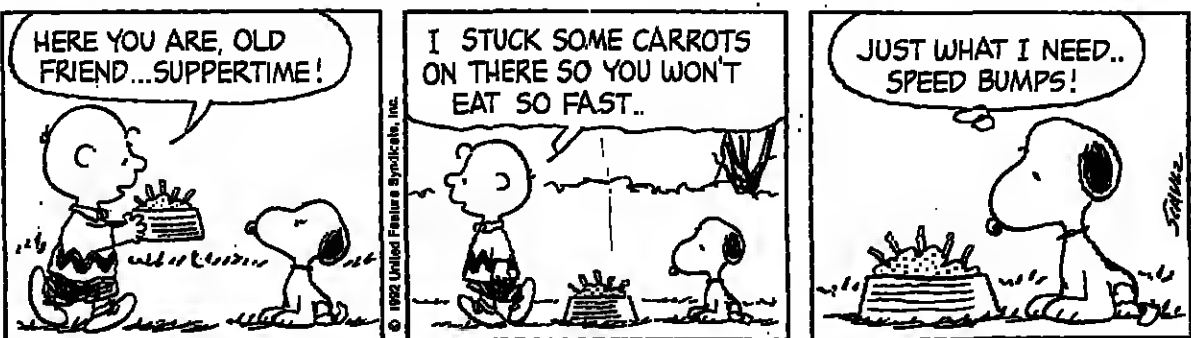


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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 10. 2 Down: 11. 3 Across: 12. 4 Down: 13. 5 Across: 14. 6 Down: 15. 7 Across: 16. 8 Down: 17. 9 Across: 18. 10 Down: 19. 11 Across: 20. 12 Down: 21. 13 Across: 22. 14 Down: 23. 15 Across: 24. 16 Down: 25. 17 Across: 26. 18 Down: 27. 19 Across: 28. 20 Down: 29. 21 Across: 30. 22 Down: 31. 23 Across: 32. 24 Down: 33. 25 Across: 34. 26 Down: 35. 27 Across: 36. 28 Down: 37. 29 Across: 38. 30 Down: 39. 31 Across: 40. 32 Down: 41. 33 Across: 42. 34 Down: 43. 35 Across: 44. 36 Down: 45. 37 Across: 46. 38 Down: 47. 39 Across: 48. 40 Down: 49. 41 Across: 50. 42 Down: 51. 43 Across: 52. 44 Down: 53. 45 Across: 54. 46 Down: 55. 47 Across: 56. 48 Down: 57. 49 Across: 58. 50 Down: 59. 51 Across: 60. 52 Down: 61. 53 Across: 62. 54 Down: 63. 55 Across: 64. 56 Down: 65. 57 Across: 66. 58 Down: 67. 59 Across: 68. 60 Down: 69. 61 Across: 70. 62 Down: 71.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 7/27/92	TOKYO CLOSE 7/27/92
Swiss Franc	1.4875	1.4853
Deutsche Mark	1.3275	1.3253
French Franc	5.0035	5.0249
Japanese Yen	127.57	127.53
European Currency Unit	1.3760	1.3728

Forward Interest Rates

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.31	3.46	3.61
Swiss Franc	9.87	10.12	10.37	10.51
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.68	9.81	9.75
French Franc	8.18	8.37	8.37	8.31
Japanese Yen	10.00	10.18	10.23	10.23
European Currency Unit	4.06	4.00	3.81	3.75

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Other Currencies

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CAT Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	4/8/92	Close	3/8/92	Close
All-Share	140.23		140.29	
Banking Sector	102.23		102.57	
Insurance Sector	150.19		150.57	
Industry Sector	192.30		192.89	
Services Sector	185.86		184.70	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.915060	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.183237	Canadian dollar
	1.477782	Deutsche marks
	1.665565	Dutch guilders
	1.327585	Swiss francs
	30.4246	Belgian francs
	4.990050	French francs
	1117.1118	Italian lire
	127.9499	Japanese yen
	5.3880930	Swedish crowns
	5.8150200	Norwegian crowns
	5.691060	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$349.00/349.40	

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'Odds still favour' Bush despite worsening U.S. economy

WASHINGTON (R) — George Bush may be able to stop his slide in the polls and emerge victorious in the presidential race in November, but he shouldn't expect any help from the economy, private economists said Thursday.

Their forecasts show little, if any, improvement in the lackluster economy between now and election day, and some of them warned that Mr. Bush should be braced for even more bad news in the weeks ahead.

"What you see now is what you get in November," said Allen Sinai, chief economist to the Boston Co. Financial Firm. "We have a very lethargic economy and I don't see anything on the horizon that indicates any kind of snap back."

Indeed, the Labour Department reported Thursday that the number of Americans filing first-time claims for unemployment benefits soared by 69,000 for the week ending July 25, the biggest one-week jump in more than a decade.

The surge, which pushed the number of Americans filing jobless claims to a seven-month high of 469,000, was blamed on a company-wide shutdown by General Motors Corp. during the last two weeks in July.

While analysts said the claims spike was not indicative of a sudden worsening in the labour

market, they said they weren't looking for any significant improvement either.

In May and June, the unemployment rate jumped by 0.6 of a percentage point to an eight-year high of 7.8 per cent.

However, economists said the Bush campaign would not be able to take much comfort from any improvement because it would be influenced heavily by a \$500 million emergency federal programme passed in the wake of the Los Angeles riots to provide temporary summer jobs for youth.

Analysts called the jobs programme a short-term fix that probably would result in the unemployment rate rising again in September once the programme ends.

Through November, many economists said they expected the jobless rate — the most politically sensitive of all economic indicators — to be at 7.5 per cent or higher.

A jobless rate at such a level was not the prevailing forecast when 1992 began. Analysts believed that the economy, after weathering first a recession and then a severe slowdown, would gain momentum as the year went forward, helping to push the unemployment rate from its 7.1 per cent level when the year began down to around 6.5 per cent at

year's end.

However, things have not turned out that way. The overall economy, as measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) did start at a brisk pace, climbing at an annual rate of 2.9 per cent in the first three months of the year, the fastest pace of the Bush presidency.

However, growth faltered in the April-June quarter, with the GDP dipping to an anemic 1.4 per cent rate. Many forecasters said they looked for growth to remain at this subdued level through the current July-September quarter.

"Economic growth is fairly feeble right now, and for that reason we are looking for the unemployment rate to be stuck around 7.5 per cent through the election," said Bruce Steinberg, an economist at Merrill Lynch Financial Firm.

Analysts blamed the lousy economy for the beating Bush's approval ratings have been taking this year. A Washington Post-ABC poll published Thursday showed Bush's approval rating had dropped 5 percentage points in the last month to a new low of 33 per cent.

"If Bush campaigns on the economy, he loses," said Michael Evans, head of a Washington forecasting firm. "His goal will be to switch the debate to other

issues and blame the economy on the Democratic Congress, something he has already started to do."

Even with the weak economy and Bush's current low standing in the polls, many analysts said they believed Bush was still capable of pulling out a victory in November.

David Wyss, an economist at Dri-McGraw Hill Inc., said a forecasting model he has developed shows Bush will win in November with 51 per cent of the vote, a razor-thin margin that is down from the 53 per cent he was forecasting before the recent spate of weak economic news.

Wyss's model predicts election results based on income growth and inflation over the 12 months preceding the election.

The model has correctly called every election since 1948 with the exception of the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon contest, Wyss said. The model predicted that Nixon would win with 50.5 per cent of the vote, but he got only 49.8 per cent.

This year's prediction is actually a tossup, he said. While it expects Bush to get 51 per cent of the vote, the model has a 1.5 percentage-point margin of error.

"The odds still favour Bush, but it is getting very close," Wyss said.

Warnings of prolonged British economic contraction haunt markets

LONDON (R) — The British government, under pressure to change its economic policy, faced a new barrage of bad news on Thursday, as companies announced plunging profits and warned of further troubles yet to come.

"The economy is bumping along the bottom," said Sir John Quinlan, chairman of Barclays Bank, which on Thursday reported pre-tax profits plunged by more than 80 per cent in the first half of 1992.

"I expect we could be well into 1993 or even 1994 before there are genuine signs of revival," he told Reuters.

Earlier Barclays, Britain's biggest bank, said its first half pre-tax profits plummeted to 51 million pounds sterling (\$98 million) from 378 million (\$724 million) as higher debt provisions bit into earnings.

Debt-laden oil giant British Petroleum (BP) when reported a

Oil prices jump on new Iraq threat

LONDON (R) — News that Iraq will not let a fresh team of U.N. arms inspectors enter government ministries in Baghdad pulled petroleum prices out of a decline on Thursday.

Londoo September futures for the world Benchmark crude oil, North Sea Brent blend, traded briefly at \$20 per barrel, a gain of 16 cents on the day, New York crude futures also advanced.

Jitters about renewed tensions between Iraq and the United States had helped to prop up the market recently.

But late last week traders began to worry about weak oil demand in the enfeebled Western economies and the Brent price slid below the psychologically important \$20 level.

Last month Iraq allowed U.N. inspectors to enter its Agriculture Ministry after a three-week stand-off but seemed to renew its defiance on Thursday.

Russia's oil flows on to the West

LONDON (R) — Oil exports to the West by the republics of the former Soviet Union continue to rise despite worries about the turmoil there, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA).

U.N. HQ in Sarajevo attacked

SARAJEVO (R) — The headquarters of U.N. peacekeeping in Sarajevo came under mortar attack Thursday evening for the second time in hours and a French soldier was seriously wounded, U.N. officials said.

"It was a deliberate attack," U.N. spokesman Mik Magnusson said. The headquarters took three 120 mm mortar bomb hits between 10:22 and 10:25 p.m. (2022 and 2225 GMT), he added.

"One shot was a ranging round, the other two direct hits on the building," he said. Apart from the French soldier, three persons were slightly hurt, Mr. Magnusson said.

Hours before the attack, Sarajevo's airport and the U.N. headquarters came under fire in a fierce exchange between Muslim and Croat forces and Serbs, raising doubts about the future of the U.N. mission in Sarajevo.

"It isn't a healthy omen for the U.N. to have its men under fire when airport operations have been suspended and we are evaluating our mission," Mr. Magnusson said after the first attack.

U.N. officials closed down Sarajevo's airport Wednesday for 72 hours following a sharp increase in fighting in surrounding areas and several direct attacks on the airport.

One shell landed in a vacant shower stall at the ground level of the U.N. headquarters building, Mr. Magnusson said.

Another hit the north facade of the building "devastating a room just vacated by Ukrainian police who had gone to the quarter to smoke." An adjacent room was badly damaged.

A sleeping room for UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force) civilian police and four armoured personnel carriers were also damaged. The French soldier was hit in the car park.

"The UNPROFOR demanded a ceasefire and got a sort of one," Mr. Magnusson said.

It was a generally quiet night elsewhere in the city, Sarajevo Radio editor Zoran Pirovic said. Three civilians were wounded during the night, he added.

There was a small-scale infantry assault around Kolina Kapa in the region of the main Serb mountain supply road from their positions in Pale to Ilidza.

The Braka and Kosevo areas were also shelled overnight and the devastated district of Dobrinja, overlooking Sarajevo's airport, was rocketed between midnight and 3 a.m.

President Bush called on the United Nations to authorise force in the wake of new charges of atrocities, but to limit its role to protecting aid deliveries. But a Vatican official said Europe and the United Nations had the duty to interfere, "to disarm one who wants to kill."

In Croatia, three men told an Associated Press reporter that they saw scores of rapes and beatings at Serb-run camps in northern Bosnia. A man named Adem said he had escaped from the Omarska Camp after seeing people taken away daily to be shot.

"We would stand on a small window and count dead people being taken away — they were all our men, from the village, or neighbourhood," he said.

Britain's independent Television News was allowed into Omarska and the Trnopolje camps, both in northern Bosnia. Gaunt men with protruding ribs started listlessly from behind a barbed-wire fence.

Serb officials at the camp said it was an "investigation centre" to separate active Muslim "rebels" from civilians.

"I am glad the journalists have seen the worst prison in Bosnia, Omarska," said Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. "It is for war criminals, not civilians."

Mr. Karadzic told BBC Radio 4 that he intended to "keep all those places fully opened and (give) all access for the Red Cross and anyone else who can help lives by food and medicine."

But Milan Panic, a U.S. businessman appointed premier of Serb-dominated Yugoslavia last month, said Friday he would order Serbs in Bosnia to close their detention camps.

"The camps will have to be dismantled" within 30 days, he said, en route to meetings in Budapest.

At the United Nations, officials said peacekeepers had collected reports of atrocities in Bosnia for five months, but that the Security Council — the only agency capable of taking action in response to the reports — had not seen them.

The officials were responding to a confidential peacekeepers' memo, released to the AP Thursday, that said U.N. observers saw Muslims being rounded up by Serbs at a football field in the town of Bosanski Novi.

The Serbs claim that Muslims and Croats also commit atrocities in prison camps, but most of the scarce documentation so far is about Serb-run camps.

Mr. Bush said he was establishing full diplomatic relations with Bosnia-Herzegovina and two other former Yugoslav republics — Slovenia and Croatia.

"We must stop ethnic cleansing and open any and all detention camps to international inspection," he said. "I'm hoping that we will not have to use force," to get aid into Bosnia.

Sarajevo Radio said fighting

also continued around the besieged town of Gorazde, south-east of Sarajevo, and around Bihać, and Velika Kladusa in the northwest.

Gen. Philippe Morillon, a U.N. negotiator with Bosnian presidency officials Thursday and was to meet Serb leader Friday.

The United Nations announced that Brig. Gen. Hussein Ali Abdul Razek of Egypt was appointed sector commander of Sarajevo, replacing Maj. Gen. Lewis MacKenzie.

France will ask the United Nations to boost its military force in former Yugoslavia, a government minister said Friday.

Junior Foreign Minister George Kiekmann said France would introduce a draft resolution in the Security Council to strengthen the U.N. peacekeeping force.

NATO members agreed Thursday to draw up plans that could involve thousands of Western troops in ensuring humanitarian aid is delivered to people in former Yugoslavia, alliance sources told Reuters.

With international outrage mounting over the continued killing in Bosnia, the deal was struck at a meeting of senior diplomats from the 16 NATO nations at alliance headquarters in Brussels.

NATO's military authorities will be formally asked next week to work out contingency plans including the possibility of opening up a land corridor from the Adriatic to the beleaguered city of Sarajevo for armed relief convoys — an operation the alliance thinks might need up to 100,000 troops.

A political decision to use force would have to be taken before any of the plans are put into effect and a mandate from the United Nations would be needed, the sources said.

Russia, Baltics to work out timetable for troop pullout

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian and Baltic officials have agreed to work out a timetable for removing former Soviet troops from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — but made little other progress.

The foreign ministers accepted the need "for a timetable suitable to both sides," Estonian Foreign Minister Jaan Manitski said after the four-sided talks. "But we are not (convinced) that we've seen a real solution."

Mr. Manitski, Janis Jurkians of Latvia and Lithuania Foreign Minister Algirdas Saugardas met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in Moscow to discuss the troops, which the Baltic side estimates at 100,000 to 150,000.

The Baltic states were invaded by the Soviet Union and annexed in 1940, and in 1990 were among the first republics to declare their independence when the Communist nation began to disintegrate.

The three Baltic states insist that Russia withdraw its forces from their capital cities — Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn — by the end of the year, and remove the remaining combat forces a few months later, the foreign ministers said at a news conference.

But Mr. Kozyrev, speaking separately, said Russia could not complete the huge withdrawal

before 1994. He also said the Baltic states should help Russia support the troops, paying for everything from salaries and pensions to building housing for the soldiers.

"At this moment, it's too early to speak of a turning point in relations between our states," Mr. Kozyrev told reporters after the meeting, the Baltfax News Agency reported.

Mr. Kozyrev said the delegations defined problems that have to be resolved at a higher level and that talks will continue. Russia commands the Baltic-based former Red Army as successor to the old Soviet government.

Baltic officials complained that Russia has withheld information about the size of the force and the cost of the bases. An Estonian official said Russia has told NATO that its Baltic facilities and equipment are worth \$7 billion.

"That's ridiculous," Estonian Foreign Ministry political officer Yuri Luik said after the news conference. "We should be talking about a real sum ... or nobody will help them" pay for the pullout.

He estimated the number of former Soviet troops at about 50,000 in Latvia, almost 40,000 in Lithuania and roughly 25,000 in Estonia.

House approves aid to CIS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House of Representatives has approved an aid package to Russia and the other former Soviet republics, overcoming the political pain of helping a former adversary at a time of economic distress at home.

The 255 to 164 vote, which came after heavy lobbying from the White House, sent the measure to a conference to work out differences with a similar bill the Senate, or upper legislative chamber, approved July 2.

The amended version would then go to President George Bush to sign. The way to passage had been eased by administration pledges of new aid for U.S. cities. Democratic Rep. Lee Hamilton in urging passage said that Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his economic reform colleagues "stand on a precipice. We can help."

But the afternoon of debate made clear that lawmakers were troubled over sending new aid from a deficit-ridden U.S. budget to a part of the world that had until recently been America's enemy in the cold war — and to republics that still have nuclear weapons pointed at the United States.

"We've got cities on fire," declared Democratic Rep. James Traficant, a perennial foreign aid opponent. "The money should be going to America." Others noted rising U.S. unemployment.

But supporters countered that Washington cannot afford to ignore its needy former adversary and called the aid a relatively cheap insurance policy.

"This is a minimal cost compared to what's already been spent," on decades of military buildup to counter the Soviet threat, said Republican Rep. William Broomfield.

And in a letter to speaker Thomas Foley, four former presidents — Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon — warned that "the stakes could not be higher. If we fail ... nuclear weapons may again threaten the lives of our children."

The aid bill itself was largely a symbolic act, more a statement of a political truce on the concept of aiding Russia and the other former Soviet states than a detailed plan for help.

It was similar to a version the Senate approved, 76-20 last month, and would authorize the U.S. contribution toward a \$24 billion aid effort designed by the world's leading industrialized countries.

By one estimate, the measure would authorize about \$1.2 billion in aid that could flow to any republic, which demonstrates acceptable progress toward democracy, a free-market economy and human rights.

Italians announce Mozambique ceasefire agreement

ROME (AP) — The leftist government of Mozambique and its right-wing rebel opponents agreed Friday to sign by Oct. 1 a ceasefire in their 15-year-old civil war.

President Joaquim Chissano and rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama, in a ceremony for the signing of a joint declaration, addressed one another as "dear brother" and promised to have their representatives negotiate a general peace agreement over the next seven weeks.

Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo announced the accord reached in three days of day and night negotiations.

Mr. Chissano and Mr. Dhlakama, who heads the right-wing Mozambique National Resistance, or Renamo, guerrilla movement, held their first direct talks this week in Rome.

Also involved in the talks were Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, Botswana's foreign minister, Gasitwe Chiepe, and Italian mediators.

Mario Raffaelli, an Italian mediator, said the two sides agreed to protect freedom and democracy and the personal safety of all citizens.

The rebels have sought guarantees they would not be persecuted after an eventual ceasefire and that free elections would be held.

Mr. Chissano said he thought elections could be held a year after the signing of the ceasefire.

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush and Democratic rival Bill Clinton traded barbs on economic policy as the crisis in the former Yugoslavia threw a shadow over the campaign trail.

In Colorado Springs, Colorado, Mr. Bush accused Mr. Clinton of being a closet tax-and-spend liberal seeking to levy the largest tax increase in U.S. history.

"The other side talks about changing the economy with new spending and taxes, but when they talk about change, that's all you're going to have left in your pocket when these guys get through with you," the president said.

Asked by a Denver radio station how he responded to conservatives calling on him not to run for re-election, the president said feistily, "tell them to go jump in the lake. I'm not a quitter, I'm a fighter."

Mr. Clinton, busily through Iowa on the second day of his second bus caravan through the U.S. heartland, visited a pair of factories to back up his presidential campaign motto that business, labour and environmental protection go hand-in-hand.

ANC mass action campaign winds down

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The black opposition campaign of mass action against South African President F.W. de Klerk is winding down, leaving the field open for possible resumption of talks on the transition to non-racial rule.

About 65 people arrested Thursday during sit-in occupations by supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) anti-government alliance at shops, offices and government buildings.

But the scale of the protests was much reduced after the marches through major cities Wednesday which police estimated attracted 110,000 people.

The marches, which followed a general strike Monday and Tuesday, marked a highpoint in the campaign launched by the ANC and its Communist and labour allies in June to speed Mr. De Klerk's exit from office.

Political analysts said the campaign was an almost inevitable stage in the jockeying for power between the ANC and the government which began when Mr. De Klerk freed ANC leader Nelson Mandela in February 1990.

They said ANC leaders had needed to take a tough stance to appease militant grass-roots supporters who suspected they were being too accommodating in the democracy negotiations.

South African media reported Thursday that the talks were likely to resume soon following the strike and marches, which had reaffirmed widespread black support for Mr. Mandela.

Both Mr. De Klerk and Mr. Mandela made conciliatory speeches following the biggest of the rallies Wednesday, at which Mr. Mandela addressed 70,000 blacks from the steps of the union buildings, the seat of government in Pretoria.

The tragedy of Boipatong, the township where at least 43 blacks were killed one night in June, was recalled Thursday when survivors told an independent inquiry that uniformed whites had been involved in the killing.

Police have denied any involvement in the massacre, which the ANC cited in breaking off negotiations with the government. Residents of a nearby migrant worker hostel have been arrested for carrying out the raid.

ANC leaders demanded Thursday that U.N. monitors be sent to the scene of another raid in Natal province where 11 blacks were killed Sunday.

Bush calls Clinton a closet tax-and-spend

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"What you see here is an example of where the environment and the economy and a commitment to educating and training your workers can all go together to make for good jobs and profitability," Mr. Clinton said at an aluminum recycling plant.

"Mr. Clinton, running-mate Al Gore and their wives are 'whistle-stopping' along the Mississippi River on buses instead of the traditional train trip of a generation ago."

As the caravan continued on its way, Mr. Clinton campaign headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas issued an eight-page broadside on "the truth" on the president's economic record while the Bush campaign countered with its own "truth sheet" on Mr. Clinton's shifting stance on middle-class tax breaks.

Mr. Clinton initially backed a middle-class tax cut, then made the break optional in a revised economic plan.

While the economy dominated the debate, Mr. Bush passed from campaigning to appeal for quick passage of a U.N. resolution authorising use of force, if needed, to get urgent humanitarian aid into Bosnia-Herzegovina.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan defence report lists threats

TOKYO (R) — China is modernising its military by selling arms to the Third World, North Korea is developing a long-range missile and Russian forces in the Far East remain a destabilising factor, according to Japan's annual defence report. The 1992 white paper on defence, released Friday, said Japan's self-defence forces must assume a new role and become a showcase for international cooperation by providing troops for United Nations peace-keeping activities. "China is selling arms to Third World countries and re-investing the profit to modernise its military," Haruo Ueno, the Defence Ministry's counselor, told a news conference. "We have not assessed China's military as a threat, like the way we regarded the Soviet presence in the Far East," added Mr. Ueno. "We hope China's military will not cross the line from its traditional defensive posture." For the first time the annual report mentioned North Korea's suspected plans to develop an advanced version of the Soviet-designed Scud missile with a range of 1,000 km (625 miles).

Azeris bomb Karabakh capital, 20 killed

MOSCOW (R) — Ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh charged rival Azeris with bombing the capital of the disputed enclave overnight, killing at least 20 people. Karabakh News Agency said the attack by an SU-25 fighter-bomber wounded 50 people and destroyed dozens of houses in Stepanakert. Moscow Radio, quoting an Armenian News Agency, said 22 people were killed and 64 wounded. No independent confirmation of the report was available. If true, the attack could signal a new spiral of violence in the undeclared war for the control of Karabakh, whose Armenian population is seeking independence from Azerbaijan. The conflict which has lasted nearly four years has so far defied all peace-keeping efforts, including talks in Moscow and Rome. The Russian and Armenian foreign ministers met in Moscow Wednesday to discuss prospects for deploying international or Commonwealth peacekeeping troops to separate the Azeri and Armenian forces in the enclave. In Rome, 11-nation talks broke up in disarray Wednesday.

Thais press government on victims

BANGKOK (R) — Relatives of victims of the Thai army's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators have united to press the government for higher compensation and a quicker search for the missing. "There has been no government agency which has been seriously tracking those still missing," Adul Kiewworiboon, the group's leader, said Thursday. His 20-year-old son was shot dead during the May 17-20 unrest in Bangkok. Under Thai law, a person is not regarded as missing until contact has been lost for seven years, he said. "But this is a special case. We would like the government to be lenient with those legal terms." Mr. Adul told reporters during a gathering of the relatives. Soldiers opened fire on unarmed, pro-democracy campaigners on Bangkok streets after their verbal warnings failed to disperse the crowd. The official death toll is 52 with hundreds wounded. The Interior Ministry says 252 people are unaccounted for but some non-governmental organisations say the figure is much higher.

NASA gives up on experiment

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Stymied by a problem familiar to any fisherman — a jammed line — Atlantis' astronauts gave up trying to cast a half-ton satellite 12 1/2 miles (19.3 kilometers) into space and reeled it back in. Meanwhile, Eureka, the shuttle's other troubled satellite, got a boost. The astronauts were scheduled this morning after NASA told them to abandon the daring tethered satellite experiment. "I guess they call this the calm after the storm," shuttle pilot Andrew Allen told mission control. Scientists had hoped to generate up to 5,000 volts of electricity by dragging the cord and satellite through Earth's magnetic field at 17,500 mph. The satellite flew for 24 hours, but the shoelace-thick cord jammed on its reel repeatedly, keeping the spacecraft from climbing higher than about 850 feet (260 metres). The cord yielded a meager 40 volts before NASA gave up Wednesday.

COLUMN

Ukrainian loses wife, forgets hotel at Olympics

BARCELONA (R) — A Ukrainian visitor to the Barcelona Olympics lost his wife and then couldn't remember where he was staying, police said. Vasily Lisachko went to the police and then realised he had forgotten the name of his hotel in the coastal resort of Salou south of Barcelona. An interpreter was summoned, the Spanish police set to work on the telephone and two hours later tracked down his hotel and worried wife waiting there for him.

Germany puts town called Amerika up for sale

BERLIN (R) — Germany put a town called Amerika out to international tender hoping its name will entice an investor to redevelop its 19th century cotton mills which were closed down last year. "Future utilisation: Leisure time and adventure town ... Minimum offer: 10 million marks (\$7 million)," said an advertisement placed in the international press by the German government's Trentham Privatization Agency. The town in eastern Germany's Saxony state got its name from workers who joked that crossing the Zwickauer Mulde River to the factory was like crossing the Atlantic to America. Like most plants in what used to be Communist east Germany, the mill owned workers' houses, kindergartens and other property in the town. "We hope to find an investor who has the commitment to make something out of the town," said Hans-Georg Patze, a property agent in the city of Gera who is handling the sale. The cotton mills in Amerika, which employed 1,100 last year, were built during the first years of Germany's industrial revolution. Mr. Patze told Reuters that two watermills and a factory would be preserved as museums.

U.S. announces plans for a people's rose garden

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Botanic Garden announced plans for a three-acre (1.2 HA) National Garden to be built near the capitol. The garden will commemorate the 200th anniversary of Congress, and will sit in the shadow of the Capitol Dome, next to the U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory. It will feature many varieties of America's national flower, the rose, as well as other American plants and a learning centre to educate the public about American plant life. The White House already has a rose garden near the president's office, often used for ceremonies, but the general public is not admitted. Said Mrs. B.A. Bentsen, wife of Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, who is on the executive board planning the new garden. "I think it will be one of the most beautiful and restful places in Washington," Mrs. Bentsen said. "Just the idea of stopping here for a little rest before heading up to the hustle and the bustle of the Hill seems wonderful to me." Because the garden is meant to be for the people, it will be designed by the people — through a national competition open to all landscape architects, architects and architecture students. But the style of the garden and the plants that fill it will be decidedly American, organisers said.

Sleeping with snakes can be good for you

LONDON (R) — Sleeping with snakes can be good for you, according to a group of Italian researchers. The four-tined snake commonly found in Greece and Italy emits a healing substance in its saliva that helps to speed the treatment of injuries, they reported in the British Medical Journal the Lancet. The research at Rome's University of Cassino was prompted by Greek and Roman legends attesting to the healing qualities of Asclepius — the Greek god of medicine associated with serpents. Inscriptions and carvings on shrines speak of a healing ritual in which injured Greeks and Romans entered a cellar where they were visited during sleep by the god in the form of a snake, or by a priest with a sacred serpent. According to the legends the injured area was healed after contact with the "mouthpart" of the snake. The Italian researchers found that the saliva of the non-poisonous four-tined snake contained an epidermal growth factor which enhanced the healing process.